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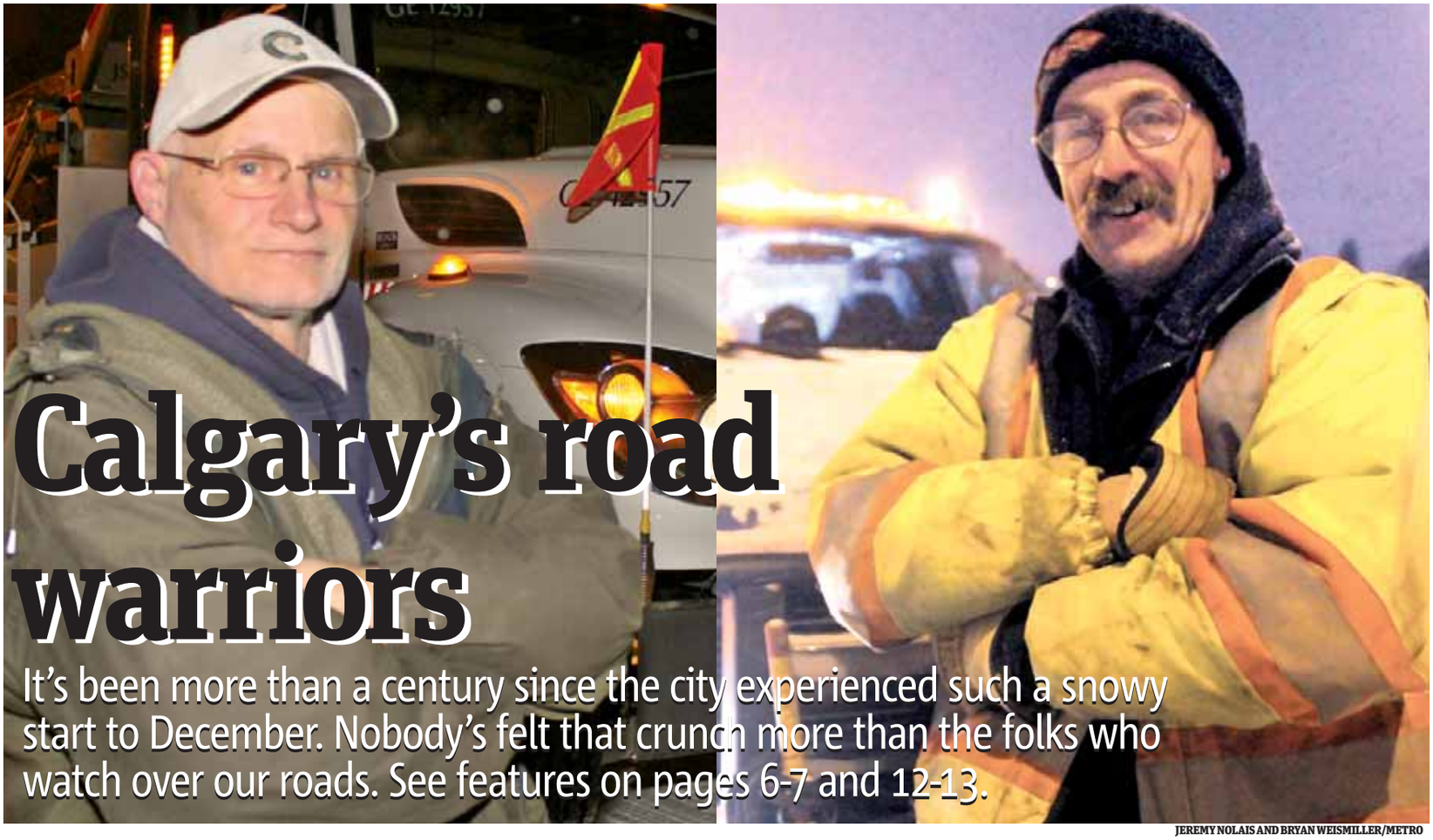
NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Bitumen gets one step closer to flowing

Review panel has given its blessing to the Northern Gateway pipeline, but it comes with 209 conditions, which includes protecting caribou habitat PAGE 34

BECAUSE THE GREAT GATSBY WASN'T DECADENT ENOUGH

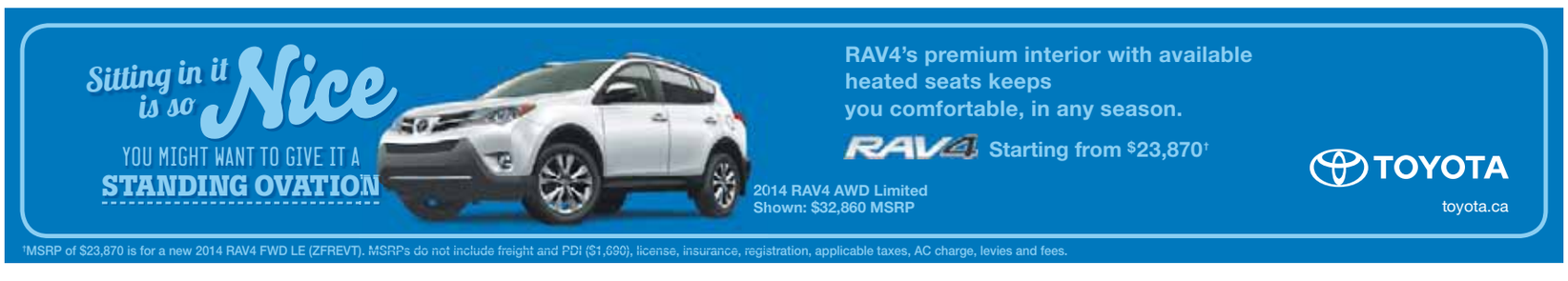
LEO PLAYS A REAL HEDONIST PAGE 38



Calgary's road warriors

It's been more than a century since the city experienced such a snowy start to December. Nobody's felt that crunch more than the folks who watch over our roads. See features on pages 6-7 and 12-13.

JEREMY NOLAIS AND BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO



NEWS 1

Wi-Fi in the park? It should be coming soon to some spots in Calgary, now that the city has signed a deal with Shaw to provide free wireless Internet at locations across the city. METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Free Wi-Fi coming to a public space near you

Calgary partners with Shaw. Service will be similar to Shaw Go WiFi, but not limited to subscribers

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Calgary has hired Shaw Communications to install no-charge public Wi-Fi at high-traffic locations like parks, rec centres and LRT stations, the city announced Thursday.

"Free public Wi-Fi is not just about technology," Mayor Naheed Nenshi said in a statement. "It's about giving Calgarians greater access to city services and the world."

The city put out a request for proposals that closed last March, and found Shaw's plan to install wireless Internet service for the general public to be the best of the submissions it received.

City information technology manager Heather Reed-Fenske said the service will not only be free for the public to use, it will also come with virtually no cost to city taxpayers.

She said Shaw will install the Wi-Fi transmitters and, other than some minimal staff time in a project-management capacity and the electricity to power the system, the city won't foot any other bills.

So what's in it for Shaw?

"They get access to Calgarians and will have the ability to share in some marketing opportunities as well," Reed-Fenske said.

Although details are still being worked out, she said that could come in the form of physical signs promoting Shaw's service in city parks or rec centres, as well as a splash page on wireless devices themselves as people connect to the service.

Shaw wouldn't do an on-the-record interview Thursday, citing the need to finalize the exact terms of service.

The city plans to collect public feedback on the program once the initial Wi-Fi sites are set up.

It's not clear yet exactly when the service will be made available. The city said it will announce a start date some time in the new year.

Post-flood deaths. Zoo brings in penguin expert

With its penguin colony still at threat of a deadly disease outbreak, the Calgary Zoo has flown in an expert from Scotland to check things out.

Dr. Romain Pizzi, an expert at the society that runs the Edinburgh Zoo (home to 70 Gentoo penguins), was scheduled to land here today.

While keen to recognize his own staff, Dr. Jake Veasey suggested it was prudent to get an outsider's take following a spate of post-flood penguin deaths.

"If there's any tiny insight, any tiny tricks that he has, we definitely want to make sure that we don't miss out on those," said Veasey, the Calgary Zoo's director of animal care, conservation and research.

Five penguins have died since June's historic flood: three likely due to avian malaria and two from a disease called aspergillosis. In contrast, two birds perished in the 21-month period before the flood.

Zoo officials point to a 7,300 per cent spike in fungal spores recorded outside the building at the riverside animal park in the wake of the flooding as the chief cause.

Veasey believes the zoo has since "turned the corner" and reported no birds are currently in the "immediate danger zone."

Still, officials are looking for bacterial flare-ups that could be fatal.

"We can't say that we'll ever eradicate this as a problem in our colony," he said. "It's always going to be there."

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

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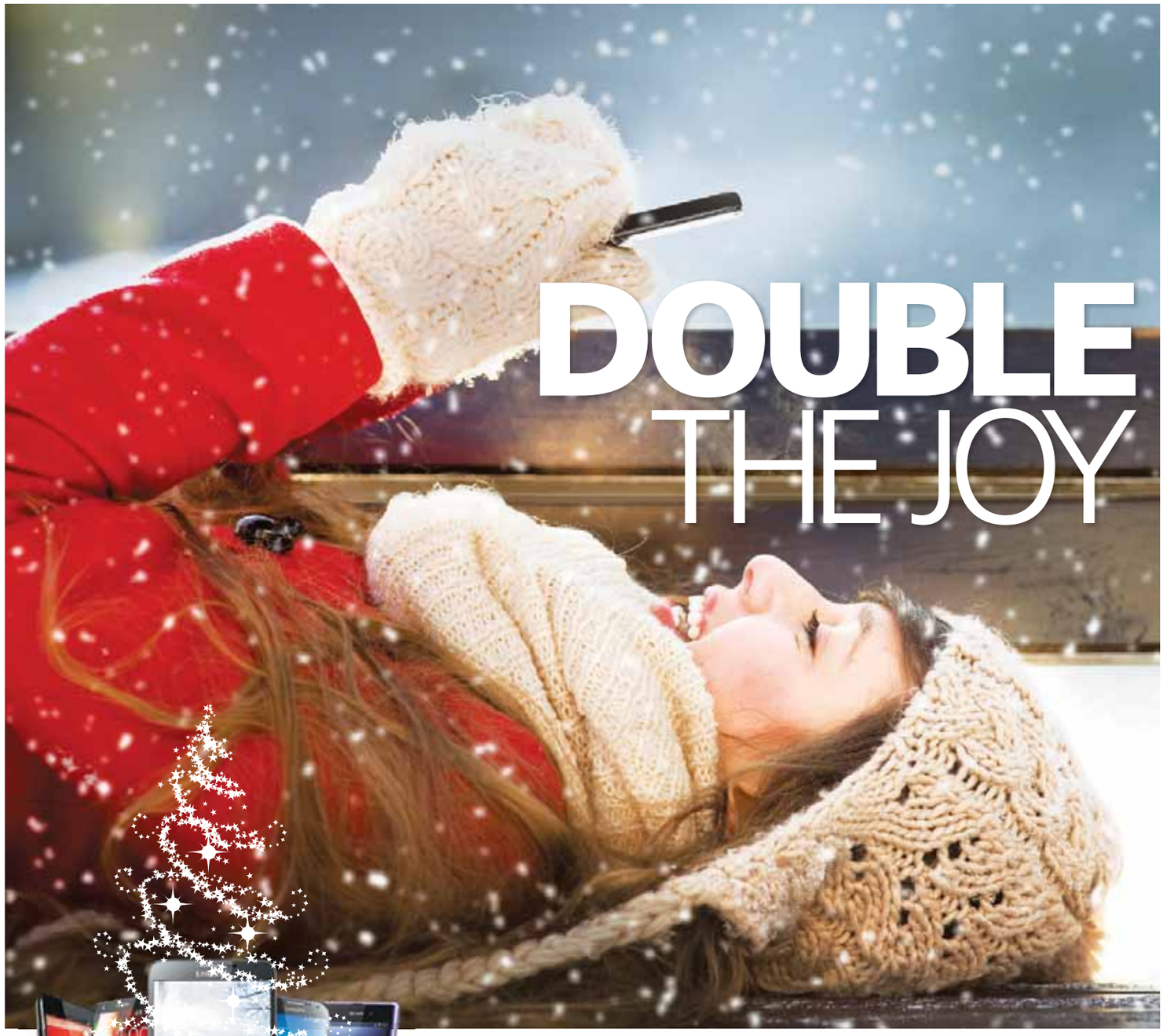

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Glenmore crash. Support pours in for family of toddler killed in collision

Friends and co-workers are rallying support for the family of 18-month-old Calgary toddler Travis Bertrand, who died in a crash on Glenmore Trail Wednesday evening.

Gerry Jackson employs Travis's father Chris at an auto shop in Cochrane. He said Chris is doing relatively well considering the situation.

"I'm not sure it's totally sunk in yet," Jackson said in a phone interview. "Chris absolutely loves his kids. He never came into work with a bad thing to say, even when they were sick."

According to Jackson, Travis and older brother Zack were riding in a truck with their mother on Wednesday on Glenmore Trail near Deerfoot Trail when they overshot the divide and were hit by a semi-truck.

Both Travis and Zack were rushed to hospital, but the youngster was later pronounced dead.

Jackson said Zack suffered a broken pelvis but is expected to make a full recovery.

Jackson is now accepting donations at his Napa Auto Parts store in Cochrane in hopes of buying toys for Zack, who will likely spend Christmas in a hospital bed.

Insp. Michael Watterston says police are investigating speed and snow near a median as possible factors in Wednesday's collision. RILEY HILL/FOR METRO

Jackson said he'd only briefly met young Travis.

"It's really too bad — I love kids," he said.

Police Insp. Michael Watterston told reporters Wednesday it was unclear whether snow piled along the side of the Glenmore divide was a factor.

"We're still in the early stages of the investigation," he said. "We're not ruling anything out."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO
WITH FILES FROM RILEY HILL

Ruling. Torturer deemed a dangerous offender

A Calgary judge has determined a convicted torturer meets the criteria to be considered a dangerous offender.

Dustin Paxton slouched in his seat, shook his head and smirked as Justice Sheilah Martin delivered her decision.

Martin says the 33-year-old is a high risk to reoffend violently.

She says the Crown has fully proven Paxton is a dangerous offender who has shown indifference to his crimes.

Martin is now discussing a sentence.

Paxton was convicted in February 2012 of aggravated and sexual assault for the prolonged and brutal abuse of a man who was his friend and roommate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Roy Eisenrieder and Harley leave the Calgary Animal and Bylaw Services impound building on Thursday afternoon. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Dog recovered after being stolen with truck

Reunited and it feels so good. Harley was lost for 17 hours after a thief ejected him from the swiped vehicle

Roy Eisenrieder wasn't quite sure what to do when he walked out of Deerfoot Mall on Wednesday afternoon and his truck wasn't where he had left it.

More worrisome to him than the missing vehicle was its contents — a six-year-old shepherd-Rottweiler mix named Harley.

"I was absolutely stunned. I wasn't gone for five minutes and the truck was locked," Eisenrieder said. "I actually walked back into the store and then walked back out again. I couldn't believe it."

When it finally set in that the truck was really gone and Harley with it, Eisenrieder contacted mall security and police, who told him his dog was likely on the loose.

"The police said, from other incidents, they (the car thieves) just throw the dog out," Eisenrieder said.

The farmer, who lives near Irricana, rounded up some friends and together they searched a swath of northeast Calgary near the mall, canvassing nearby businesses, but came up empty-handed.

By midnight, as temperatures plunged to -22 C, they had to give up, and Eisenrieder spent a sleepless night wondering how his country dog would fare, alone and lost in the city.

By Thursday morning, a social-media campaign was underway and Eisenrieder was offering a $500 reward for Harley's return. He, meanwhile, parked himself at the corner of Deerfoot and Memorial and monitored traffic, on the off-chance he might spot his stolen truck.

Shortly after noon, his daughter called to inform him Harley had been located in Beddington and was safely with Animal and Bylaw Services.

"I'm ecstatic," he said as he left the animal impound, reunited with Harley, who seemed a little shaken but was not physically injured.

As for the reward, Eisenrieder said he donated it to Animal and Bylaw Services "so they can keep doing good work." ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Quoted

"To just throw him out, and leave him out all night long, it's pretty sickening."

Roy Eisenrieder on the thief who stole his truck, along with his dog.

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Glen Boulier has been running night shifts as a City of Calgary sander-plower for more than three decades. He's come to learn being prepared for everything and anything is best practice. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

'Crazy stuff goes on at night.'

Stories of the road. Hop aboard with a Calgary sander-plower. Veteran has encountered much more than snow over the years

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Glen Boulier admits he's a bit of a chatterbox.

The 58-year-old City of Calgary sander has a story for every stretch of road he plows in the deep southeast.

There was that one night where a soupy fog left him unable to make out the front of his plow or the 14 times he's been hit by fellow vehicles. He's had more run-ins with belligerent drunks and shady folks than he'd like to count and can go on for hours about the treacherous era when city crews were responsible for clearing the Deerfoot, referring to an icy Calf Robe Bridge as if it was a living, breathing entity.

"You've got to go over her without touching the brake if you can help it," he explains. "You just coast."

But there is one thing that clams up the snow-remover of 33 years — the screeching of emergency sirens.

"I don't like that," he said during an exclusive Metro ride-along Wednesday night as a police cruiser whizzed by. "That's what I always worry about, coming across something on your route where somebody's been involved in something. I hate that with a passion, because you just start thinking ... did they wrap themselves around a pole for whatever reason? Was the road slippery?"

He pauses for a moment, "It's never your fault, really ... maybe I'm just getting older. I guess that's part of the show."

As a stark reminder of the oft-harsh reality of Calgary winters, Boulier's foreman radioed a few times to warn drivers to steer clear of a severe crash on Glenmore Trail at Deerfoot.

When the sanding-plowing team had set off for their 12-hour shift, all that was known was a young boy had been rushed to hospital in life-threatening condition.

Before Boulier had completed one full lap of his route, the youngster had died.

The plower's been closer to tragedy in years past, arriving on scene of three fatal crashes before the authorities. One incident, the details of which are too gory to publish, required the veteran plowman to seek counselling — that is, when not working the streets.

"I took three hours off after that," he said quietly. "I got it off my chest as best I could and went back to work that night."

There have been good situations, too. Boulier says he once grabbed a shovel and chased off an attacker "whaling" on an innocent woman in a downtown alley and even assisted police one night with corralling an offender involved in a high-speed pursuit. "What can you say, really?" he questioned. "Crazy stuff goes on at night."

Analysis

So how does this winter season stack up?

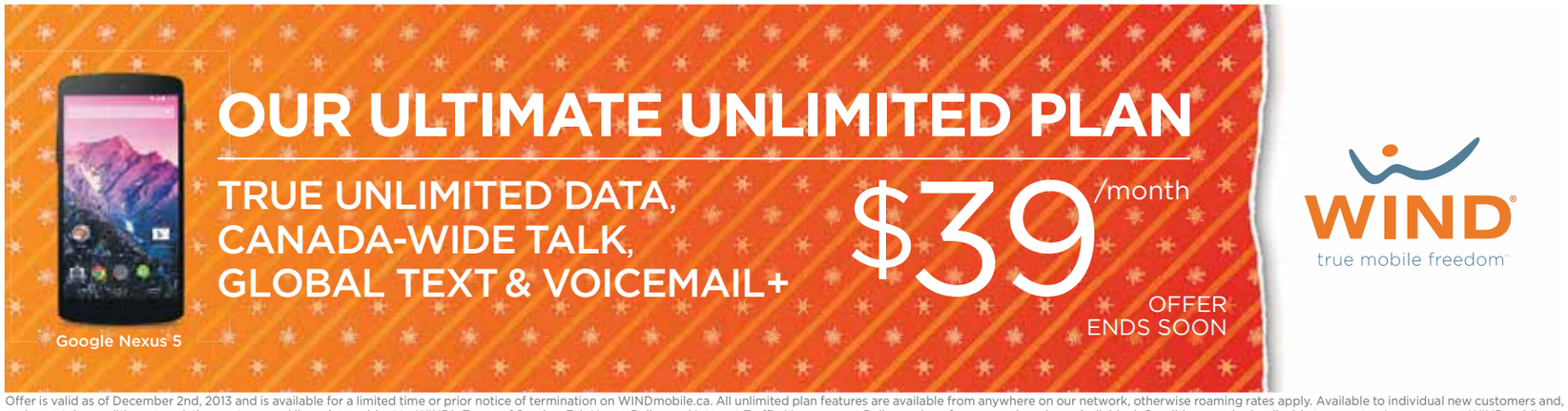
This winter's been a bad one, but Boulier's seen much worse. It's not so much the amount of snow, he explains, but the blowing winds and fluctuating temperatures.

Early on Wednesday, with snow still sprinkling the streets, he's simply trying to clear two lanes of traffic on Priority 1 routes like Glenmore and Barlow Trail. Later, he moves onto the Priority 2 roads, turning lanes and on-ramps. Bridges take priority too, because they "ice up quick." In the early-morning hours, Boulier says he'll undertake a "search and destroy mission," eyeing particular trouble spots and clearing "devil strips," areas where snow has been pushed to the middle of a route. He prefers the nights because, "There's less traffic, you can get things done."

The worst routes are McKnight Boulevard and Glenmore Trail in high-wind conditions. You never want to "lose a road" — that is, force police to shut it down.

Boulier empathizes with residents trapped in their homes in the city's far reaches — his own neighbourhood hasn't been plowed since the snow started — but said crews have been running 24 hours a day since mid-October.

"We've got this urban sprawl as you know — we cover more real-estate than Manhattan now," he said, noting Calgary's population was just a hair over 300,000 when he began plowing. "If we get a winter where the temperatures don't dip below -15C, we're laughing. But when we got that really bad blizzard, I knew right then the city wouldn't be able to recover quickly, we wouldn't be able to pull people out of the residential. You can put every ounce of machinery on the road you can, it's just not going to happen." JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO



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Quit being so cold to snow removers

Foreman Dan Coulthard points to the area of Calgary he's responsible for when it comes time to clear snow from city streets. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Busting their butts.
Public criticism of snow-removal efforts hurts morale, foreman says

Snow-removal crews want you to know they read your Twitter and Facebook rants and are doing the best they can.

"It actually hurts morale," said Dan Coulthard, a foreman working Calgary's southeast quadrant Wednesday evening. "They feel like they're constantly busting their butts, they're doing the best they can with the tools they're provided, following the policies set out by the (city councillors)."

Coulthard was joined by fellow foreman Jonathan Ward for Wednesday's run. Their zone extended from Memorial Drive in the north to 130 Avenue in the south, Deerfoot Trail on the west and the city limits to the east.

"We've got 1,500 kilometres of (Priority 1 and 2) roadway in here alone," Ward explained. "At some point it becomes about where does all the snow go?"

A fresh white blanket Wednesday meant it was likely no Priority 3 routes would be hit by nighttime plows. Residential areas, meanwhile, are strictly off-limits for crews running the big trucks at night because of noise issues.

The city is also often required to obtain proper permits before clearing a more secluded area, a move that allows time for residents to move their vehicles off the road — one errant rock can lead to quite a costly repair bill.

The temperature is also partly to blame. When lows hover over -10C, crews can lay straight salt on the roadways, which sander Glen Boulier said is good at turning snow to "running water." But when it's colder, a less-effective mixture called "pickle," a combination of liquid calcium and rock-based material is used.

Coulthard said to rest assured that his boys are giving it their all, only stopping for two 30-minute breaks over the course of 12-hour shifts. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Cold conditions

The City of Calgary has 120, plows, graders and sanders in their snow-removal fleet and also bring on a small army of private contractors to assist.

- **$34 million.** Calgary's snow- and ice-control budget for 2013 is $34 million. As of November's end, total costs for combating the white stuff had totalled $21.5 million, leading some city councillors, including Mayor Naheed Nenshi, to question why officials hadn't dug a little deeper into their pockets.
- **6 storms.** According to foremen working out of Calgary's District 7, the city has seen six full-fledged storms in December, creating difficult conditions for crews to clear out residential areas. Environment Canada said this week that Calgary hasn't seen a snowier start to December in 112 years.

Report. Cancer patient's death sparks calls for improvements in system

Alberta Health Minister Fred Horne says he is directing doctors and other health officials to make changes following a report that a cancer patient died while being shuttled among specialists.

"The report screams out at you, 'Who was responsible for this patient? Who was responsible for seeing that his journey through the health-care system was co-ordinated (and) that the information was shared?"' Horne told reporters Thursday.

"It really is an indictment of the health-care system in many respects as it related to this patient's journey.

"The report talks about a series of events where, frankly, the dots were not connecting."

Earlier Thursday in Calgary, Alberta's watchdog Health Quality Council issued its report into the case of patient Greg Price.

The council says Price's case illustrates that the province has dangerous gaps in care when someone has acute problems that demand attention from multiple specialists and departments.

With the agreement of Price's family, the council examined his treatment from the time he was first diagnosed with symptoms suggesting testicular cancer.

The council says Price's case became a tangled mess of unbooked appointments, delays in tests, and confusion over who was responsible to get him followup care. The report found Price ended up being the one driving his treatment forward by making phone calls after lengthy delays.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Details of the report

- The patient (Greg Price) was at one point in the care of three primary physicians, none of whom had access to his whole history. He experienced delays in tests and appointments.

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS WITH A COWTOWN TWIST

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

'Twas a few days before Christmas, when all thru Cowtown,
Not a councillor was stirring, not even Sean Chu;
The stockings were hung by city hall with care,
In hopes that Mayor Nenshi soon would be there.
The elected officials were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of Peace Bridges danc'd in their heads,
And Druh in her kerchief, and Ward in his cap,
Had just closed their offices for a long winter's nap.
When out in Forest Lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the Ship patio to see what was the matter.
Away to the Red Mile I flew in a flash,
But tried to hail a cab and waited for hours.
The Big Blue Ring on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below;
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature Car2go, and eight tiny councillors,
With a little old driver, so purple and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be @nenshi.
More rapid than a C-Train (because what isn't?)
And he whistled, used his gavel, and call'd them by name:
"On Pootmans! On Chabot! Now Carra, and Woolley!"
"On Keating! On Ray Jones! On Demong and Pincott!"
"To the top of Centre Street! To the top of Chinook mall!
"Now bike away! Bike away! Bike away all!"
As dry leaves before the wild Chinook winds fly,
When they meet with the Deerfoot, mount to the sky;
So up to suburbia's tops the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of taxes — and Twitter accounts, too.
And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of Magliocca's shoes.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the Calgary Tower the mayor came with a bound.
He was dress'd all in purple, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with flood mud and soot.
A bundle of Folk Fest tarps was slung on his back,
And he look'd like a Stampeder playing quarterback:
His eyes — how they rolled! His dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like wild roses, his nose like a mini-donut.
His mouth was like that statue at the bottom of The Bow,
And the cowboy hat on his head was as white as the snow.
The glass of Village Brewery he held close to his teeth,
And the smell it encircled was better than
Freeman's home.
He had a broad views, and a little black smart phone,
That shook when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, but not as bad as Rob Ford,
And I laugh'd when I saw him and Facebooked a pic.
A wink of his eye and a twist of a belt buckle,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And fill'd all the stockings; and even quickly called a homebuilder a jerk.
And laying his finger aside of his nose
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprung to his Smart Car, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, like viral WestJet video.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight —
Happy Christmas to all, I can keep the $52 million, right?

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On the record. Gov't to publicize salary, benefits for those making $100K+

The Alberta government is bringing in new rules to make public the salaries and other benefits paid to its top wage earners.

Don Scott, associate minister for accountability, says the rules will apply to employees with base salaries above $100,000.

An employee's contract and termination agreement will also be posted if the rules apply.

The amounts will go on an Alberta government website, and compensation disclosure for 2012 and 2013 will also be posted by the end of next month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New rule

The change came at the request of Alberta Premier Alison Redford after her office recently refused a directive to release details of severance paid to Redford's former chief of staff.

Health care

Province names interim health advocate

A lawyer with wide experience in medical issues has been named Alberta's interim health advocate.

Mary Marshall is to assume her duties on Jan. 1 for a period of six months.

Her job will be to set up an office to help patients and their families navigate health care in the province.

Marshall is also intended to take complaints so they can be resolved.

The office is to be running by April.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

City police watching top court's ruling closely

Calgary police Staff Sgt. Robert Rutledge said his team busted a number of human-trafficking rings this year. METRO FILE

Prostitution laws. With vice unit arrests on the rise, case could mean big changes

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Calgary police have laid charges aplenty in 2013 related to sex-trade work and human trafficking, but the city's top vice cop warns his unit's entire playbook could be thrown out in the wake of a Supreme Court of Canada ruling on prostitution expected Friday.

The potentially landmark decision will come in response to a case brought forward by three sex workers.

"It will change a lot of things, absolutely, there's no doubt," said Calgary police Staff Sgt. Robert Rutledge.

The specifics within the Criminal Code of Canada being challenged include the prohibitions on living off the avails of prostitution, living or being found in brothels and on communicating for the purposes of prostitution.

The ruling comes as Rutledge's team has ramped up the number of charges laid in relation to sex-trade work. As of November's end, city police had laid 92 prostitution communication-related charges, 24 procuring or solicitation charges, eight charges against those found to be living off the avails and seven charges related to living or being inside a brothel.

The 131 total charges laid is nearly double those seen over the same period in 2012.

Rutledge attributed much of the rise to a crackdown on human trafficking — he says young girls are being sold for sex in hotels and motels all over Calgary. He said even in cases where his officers have broken up a sex ring, the effects on the victim can be long-lasting.

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Vehicles helped or towed in 2013 up to November — an average of seven per day. That average figure jumped to roughly nine per day in early December.

Busy shift

1.5

Laps done around a Glenmore Trail circuit from Macleod Trail to an early turnaround point on Crowchild Trail during an extremely busy three-hour shift.

Lengthy congestion

2.4

Number of kilometres traffic backs up for one minute a major roadway is closed, according to tow truck driver Yves Frenette.

Monthly clicks

5,000

Average number of kilometres Frenette racks up on his tow truck every month as a roving driver.

Lotta laps

14-15

Laps done by Frenette around a Glenmore Trail circuit from Macleod Trail to an early turnaround point on Crowchild Trail during a light three-hour shift.

What's the frequency?

106.5

The FM frequency of the city's traffic advisory radio, which provides up-to-the-minute updates.

Rescuing stranded motorists — for free

Meet the man. Tow-truck driver Yves Frenette serves as a 'rover' in a program that spans four of Calgary's major roads

BRYAN WEISMILLER
bryan.weismiller@metronews.ca

Tow trucking is a life-and-death job for Yves Frenette, who often finds himself at risk due to the same motorists he's trying to rescue.

Yanking stranded drivers at the side of the road puts Frenette within arm's reach of cars zooming by at highway speeds.

"It's very dangerous," he said during an exclusive ride-along interview with Metro. "All it takes is one mistake for a driver to put me between their vehicle and the accident vehicle.

"I won't see it happen because it's so quick."

Frenette serves as a "rover" in a city program that spans four of Calgary's major roads: Deerfoot Trail, Glenmore Trail, Crowchild Trail and Memorial Drive.

Rovers aim to clear away minor collision scenes as quickly as possible to ease congestion and keep stranded motorists safe.

"I'm trying to save lives," he said.

Frenette's work places him in the same line of danger as police officers, firefighters and paramedics. But he isn't armed with the same badge, sirens or red lights as the other first responders — and isn't always afforded the same respect either.

That was obvious during the ride-along. Wrapping up a routine "hook," motorists blatantly ignored his safety beacons and invaded his workspace.

"Think about what you're doing," he shouted as two cars squeezed by on the outside shoulder lane of Crowchild Trail, near Bow Trail.

In 2013, the designated City Wide Towing operators responded to calls in under 10 minutes two-thirds of the time up to November, according to municipal data. However, that's only five per cent higher than reported during the full trial year in 2010.

It's a free service, but there's a human cost: Rovers have a dangerous role in a notoriously dangerous occupation.

Being Johnny-on-the-spot, Frenette sometimes arrives before the other authorities and doesn't always wait for his own backup truck to shield him from traffic, either.

He accepts the danger.

"If I died doing this job, so be it," Frenette said. "At least I died happy, doing something I love and trying to help somebody that needed the help."

That doesn't mean he has a death wish. Frenette detailed in length his defence tactics to reduce his risk of coming into harm's way.

The basic rule?

"Never take your eyes off the road."

Quoted

"If I died doing this job, so be it. At least I died happy, doing something I love and trying to help somebody that needed the help."

Yves Frenette, tow-truck driver

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tow truck operator Yves Frenette stares into a sea of traffic on westbound Glenmore Trail during rush hour this week. It's Frenette's job to clear minor car crashes in order raffic flowing again. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

The job. Half-tow trucker, half-psychologist

As a tow truck operator, Yves Frenette acknowledges his gig isn't just about saving people, it's about making them feel safe too. His passenger seat often doubles as a therapist's couch when he tries calming frenzied motorists. "We've got to be psychologists," he said.

On a snowy winter night this week, Mathew Walker lost control of his Acura and skidded out on northbound Crowchild Trail, near Bow Trail.

"When it happened I didn't know what do," said Walker, who was high-centred on a snowbank when a roving tow truck turned up.

Frenette and his colleague Ron acted quickly and calmly in cordoning off the scene, hitching a strap to an alloy wheel and tugging the car out of its snowy snare. Walker was most stunned to learn he didn't have to pay a penny for the service: "It's a sigh of relief."

That sense of relief is echoed in letters Frenette has compiled in a binder. In one case, the author details the "traumatic" experience of crashing and subsequently snarling traffic on the Glenmore Trail overpass. "The only thing that made it somewhat bearable was the kindness of the operator," reads the letter addressed to City Wide Towing. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Motorist Mathew Walker, right, was thrilled to learn he didn't have to foot the bill to get his Acura hauled out of a snowdrift this week, thanks to the city's roving tow service. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

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More than 75 injured as ceiling of London theatre partially collapses

Packed house. An evening performance turned into a disaster as masonry came crashing down onto audience members

Plaster and dust rained down on a packed audience when the ceiling of a London, England, theatre partially collapsed Thursday night. More than 75 people were injured — seven seriously, authorities said.

The collapse at the Apollo Theatre took place around 8:15 p.m. during a performance of The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time.

Plaster and masonry from a section of the ceiling tumbled down, bringing parts of the theatre's balconies down with it onto the audience, police said.

More than 700 people were in the theatre at the time, according to the London Fire Brigade.

Officials said most of the injured were "walking wounded" with upper-body injuries, and that all are conscious and breathing.

Police and fire officials said it was too soon to say what had caused the partial collapse of the ceiling, but that a full investigation is being carried out.

Dee Kearney said she was just three or four seats from the stage when an actor shouted "watch out!"

"Then what we felt was debris falling on us, a loud bang, and then all of a sudden there was a coat of dust," she said.

"Complete chaos" erupted as the debris rained down, said Martin Bostock, who came with his family to see the show.

"At first, we thought it was part of the show," he told Sky News. "Then I got hit on the head." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman stands bandaged and wearing a blanket given by emergency services following an incident at the Apollo Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue in London, England, on Thursday during a performance at the height of the Christmas season, with police saying there were "a number" of casualties. JOEL RYAN, INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Treating the injured

- Theatregoers were treated by dozens of emergency workers in the street outside the Apollo and at a nearby theatre.
- London Ambulance Service said it had treated 76 patients, with 51 taken to hospitals. Seven people suffered "serious injuries" but there were no fatalities and none of the injuries are believed to be life-threatening.
- The fire department reported that all those trapped in the Apollo have been rescued.
- Shaftesbury Avenue, normally one of London's busiest streets, was completely shut down.

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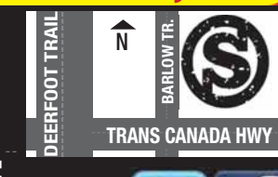

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Shakuntala Devi, who lost two sons, wails in Deoli-Benigram.

A woman walks on the ledge of her house in the Deoli-Benigram village Sunday.

Bijaya Devi, 64, the oldest widow of the village, sits with her orphaned one-year-old grandson at her house in Deoli-Benigram Sunday.

Government response

The Indian government has been criticized for its slow response to the floods. In all, about 1,000 bodies were found and some 5,700 people are missing.

- The government has distributed 500,000 rupees (about $8,000) to families in the area who lost a breadwinner, but the villagers say what they need are jobs, and for roads and electricity to be restored.

A woman returns after fetching firewood at the Deoli-Benigram village. The Indian but in this Himalayan hamlet known as the Village of Widows, the loss is all too specific:

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India floods create Village of Widows

'Now it is hell.'
Himalayan village of Deoli-Benigram has lost about a quarter of its population

The Indian government still doesn't have a final toll for the thousands of people killed in massive flash floods earlier this year, but in the Himalayan hamlet known as the Village of Widows, the loss is all too specific: 57 people killed, about a quarter of its population.

Six months after walls of melted glacier, mud and debris came crashing down the mountainside, the village officially named Deoli-Benigram has 37 widows from the floods, making up about a third of its remaining inhabitants and giving the town its grim new name.

Along with their loved ones, the grieving women's livelihoods were also lost, and they say the state's help is not enough.

"Just six months ago, we were the richest family in this village, and now we do not know where our next meal will come from," says Bijaya Devi, tears rolling down her face. Devi lost her husband, three of her sons and a nephew in the June 17 floods, which devastated the town of Kedarnath where most of the men in the village made their livings.

At age 64, Devi is the village's oldest widow. The youngest is her 22-year-old daughter-in-law. Both their husbands worked in the family's small lodge and grocery store in Kedarnath.

The early monsoon floods struck near the end of the summer Hindu pilgrimage to the Kedarnath shrine. Many of the surrounding people depend on temple tourism to make their livings, either as priests, innkeepers or guides.

The Kedarnath temple was not badly damaged itself but the area around it is still strewn with piles of debris, and villagers worry that next summer's pilgrims won't come to the devastated area.

But with the harsh Himalayan winter setting in, many are concerned just with surviving.

"Earlier, the life in the hills was dangerous, but now it is hell. There are no roads, no water, no electricity and no jobs," said Vinod Kumar in the village of Bhatwadi. "People in many villages are still living in makeshift tents. How can they survive in tents? How will they keep themselves warm?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

government still doesn't have a final death toll from massive flash floods this year, 57, about a quarter of its population. ALL PHOTOS RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Children play in Deoli-Benigram village on Sunday.

Kiran, one of the youngest widows of the village.

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‘Ashley is at peace,’ mom says after jury homicide verdict in cell death

Inquest. Sweeping recommendations made to better equip prison system to deal with mentally ill

The videotaped choking death of a teenager in her segregation cell six years ago was a homicide, a jury decided on Thursday, sparking calls for police to reopen their criminal investigation into the tragedy.

The Ashley Smith inquest decision drew a gasp from a packed coroner’s courtroom, which also heard jurors make 104 recommendations on dealing with self-harming mentally ill women in federal prisons.

While the homicide decision is not a finding of legal liability, Smith’s family lawyer immediately called for police to get involved, and lashed out at Correctional Service Canada.

“It is high time that those in charge are held accountable,” Julian Falconer said.

Falconer called for the resignation of CSC commissioner Don Head, who had warned jurors against making recommendations that would be expensive to implement.

The emotionally disturbed Smith, 19, of Moncton, N.B., strangled herself in her cell at the Grand Valley Institution in Kitchener, Ont., on Oct. 19, 2007. Guards, under orders from senior management against intervening as long as she was still breathing, waited too long to enter the cell and save her. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

“What happened to Ashley should never have happened. The concoctions of her as being violent were false; they were concocted in a way to justify a punitive treatment of her.”

Kim Pate, the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

Recommendations

The inquest heard evidence from 83 witnesses over 107 days about how poorly equipped the prison system was to deal with the mentally ill young woman.

- Among their recommendations, jurors urged that female inmates with serious mental-health issues or self-harming behaviours should serve time in a specialized treatment facility.

Ashley Smith’s family lawyers Julian Falconer, left, and Julian Roy address the media outside of the coroner’s court following the Ashley Smith inquest verdict in Toronto on Thursday. MARK BLINCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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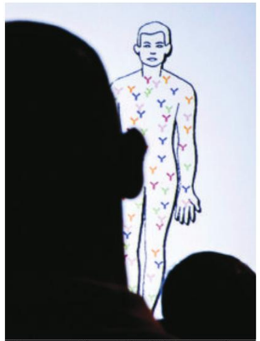
Epilepsy drug offers promise in AIDS fight

'Works beautifully' in human tissue. Scientists believe it could prevent HIV from attacking the immune system

Can an experimental drug developed to treat epilepsy block the AIDS virus? A preliminary lab study suggests it's possible, and researchers are eager to try it in people.

Scientists experimented with the drug after uncovering details of how they believe HIV cripples the immune system to bring on AIDS.

When tested in human tissues in the laboratory, the drug "works beautifully" to prevent HIV from destroying key cells of the immune system, said Dr. Warner Greene of the Gladstone Institutes in San Francisco. Those results appear in a paper by Greene and others published Thursday on Nature.



A presentation at the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington in July. CAROLYN KESTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Researchers have long known HIV infects some vital CD4 cells in the immune system and turns them into virus-producing factories, killing them in the process.

The epilepsy drug, which is not on the market, blocks an enzyme that the research identified as playing a key role in that immune system attack.

Prior studies of the drug in people show it is safe, Greene said. So the researchers are talking to the drug company about testing it in people infected with HIV. No timeline for such studies has been set, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Love between a rock and a hard place

A couple shares a tender moment in front of a poster of jailed Ukrainian former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko during a rally in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Thursday. Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych has been facing massive protests over his decision to spike a pact with the EU in favour of Russia. A $15-billion bailout from Moscow, says Russian President Vladimir Putin, was aimed at helping a partner in difficulties. DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Vote for Goodness

We've been searching for goodness. Here are 5 stories of genuinely good Canadians making a difference in their communities. Have a read. Then vote online for the story you'd like us to share in our next TV ad.

Ethan
St. Catharines, ON

Sometimes, good things come in small packages. Ethan, a Pee-Wee hockey player from St. Catharines, ON, has been collecting used hockey equipment since 2009 and distributing it to underprivileged hockey players throughout Ontario and around the world.

George
Oliver, BC

Wherever help is needed in Oliver, BC, you'll find George. He spends his life spreading goodness in so many ways, but what's really special is the time and effort he devotes to growing fresh vegetables for others. Last year, he donated 1800lbs of veggies to the food bank.

Sharon
Brandon, MB

One person can fill an entire community with goodness. Sharon, from Brandon, MB, is in her retirement years, but she still works 5 days a week at her local soup kitchen. There by 6 a.m. every morning, she tirelessly cooks hot meals for 125-150 people from all walks of life.

Julia and Emma
Oakville, ON

Goodness runs in their family. Teen sisters Julia and Emma from Oakville, ON made it their mission to collect books for remote "fly-in" communities in Northern Ontario. Their charity Books With No Bounds has collected and distributed over 27,000 books.

Coby
North York, ON

This story proves that you can always make time to spread goodness. Coby leads a busy life in North York, ON, but he regularly visits a long-term home for the elderly. Through the joy of music and song, he, and a group of volunteers from The House, bring smiles and a little human tenderness to the aged.

Vote at searchforgoodness.ca

Voting period ends on January 03, 2014 at 11:59 AM ET. Limit of one vote per person per day. See www.facebook.com/shreddies for details.

Saint Mary's needs code of conduct: Panel

Frosh-chant fallout.
Report stresses importance of changing norms that gave rise to sex-assault-promoting behaviour at university

Wayne MacKay, head of a panel formed after a frosh-week chant that glorified sexual assault, released his report on Thursday.
ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A panel launched in the aftermath of a frosh-week chant that glorified the sexual assault of young girls delivered a report Thursday calling on Saint Mary's University to develop a school-wide code of conduct.

The report makes 20 recommendations aimed at fostering a cultural change at the Halifax school to prevent sexual violence and encourage respectful behaviour.

It says the chant at Saint Mary's University, along with a similar one sung during an orientation week event at the University of British Columbia, highlighted broad societal challenges that need to be addressed rather than issues specific to youth culture.

"Hypersexualized songs, photos, movies and advertisements are omnipresent. Alcohol and drug problems abound — even among public figures that are supposed to be role models," says the 110-page report.

"The Internet and social media are forces for good but also have a much darker side like easy access to pornography, cyberbullying and the deterioration of people's capacity to form meaningful 'in-person' relationships."

Wayne MacKay, a law professor at Dalhousie University, was appointed to lead the panel that consulted with students, faculty members and alumni about ways to avoid similar incidents in the future.

MacKay said the code of conduct should establish clear standards of behavioural norms that would apply to all members of the university community and there should be consequences for people who breach it.

He said Saint Mary's University should also invest in education programs to teach students about healthy sexuality and the importance of consent.

The university set up the panel after a video surfaced on Instagram showing student leaders singing a chant about underage, non-consensual sex to about 400 new students at an event during orientation week in September.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Unhealthy allegations

Pamela Mattock Porter leaves court after her request to have her bail conditions changed so she can spend the winter in Florida were denied Thursday in Montreal. Porter is charged along with her husband, Arthur Porter, the former chief executive officer of the McGill University Health Centre of laundering $22.5 million that is alleged to have been paid in bribes by former SNC-Lavalin executives to secure the $1.3-billion super-hospital construction contract. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

China

Cartoon spurred violence: Court

State media say a Chinese court has ruled the producer of a hit kids cartoon is partly to blame for the injuries suffered by two children when their friend tied them to a tree and set them on fire in an imitation of a scene from the show. Xinhua News Agency says two young brothers were badly burned in April by the actions of their 10-year-old friend.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pennsylvania

Defrocked pastor plans to fight anti-gay doctrine

A United Methodist Church pastor defrocked for officiating the gay wedding of his son says he intends to appeal the church officials' decision. Frank Schaefer says he will continue to fight to eradicate discriminatory language in church doctrine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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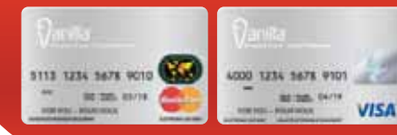

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Lee Rigby, who was attacked and killed by two men in London.
MOD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

British extremists found guilty of killing soldier

London. Lee Rigby was run down by a car and repeatedly stabbed by one killer while the other attempted to cut off his head

Two British-born, al-Qaida-inspired extremists who considered themselves "soldiers of Allah" were convicted Thursday of murdering an off-duty serviceman in a frenzied attack on a London street.

The jury of eight women and four men deliberated for just 90 minutes before finding Michael Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale guilty of murdering Fusilier Lee Rigby. They were acquitted of attempting to murder a police officer.

The two men will be sentenced early next year.

Neither defendant reacted as the jury foreman announced the verdicts. Adebolajo, at 29 the elder of the two, smiled and kissed a copy of the Qur'an as he was led down to the cells.

Adebolajo and 22-year-old Adebowale had pleaded not guilty to murder, though neither denied taking part in the May 22 attack.

The 25-year-old Rigby, a member of the Royal Fusiliers who had served in Afghanistan, was returning on foot to his barracks in south London when he was hit by the car being driven by Adebolajo. As the soldier lay on the ground, Adebowale repeatedly stabbed him and Adebolajo attempted to cut off his head.

After the attack the two killers waited at the scene, and then charged at a police car waving a machete and a gun.

Both men had denied trying to kill a police officer, saying they hoped to provoke police into shooting them. Adebowale's lawyer, Abbas Lakha, said Adebowale had brandished a 90-year-old unloaded pistol so he "would achieve martyrdom."

Armed officers shot the two men several times — blowing off Adebowale's thumb as he raised the gun — then gave them first aid.

Rigby is survived by a widow, a two-year-old son and a fiancée. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Statement from victim's family

"We are satisfied that justice has been done. But ... no amount of justice will bring Lee back."

Statement read out by a police officer on behalf of Rigby's family who stood in tears outside London's Central Criminal Court.

Witness to the crime

'Like a butcher attacking a joint of meat'

One witness described the attack, which took place on a busy London street near a primary school, as looking "like a butcher attacking a joint of meat."

Adebolajo was filmed by a passerby, covered in blood and holding a cleaver and a knife, justifying the attack "because Muslims are dying daily by British soldiers."

Adebolajo told police in an interview that they had decided to kill a British soldier, and Rigby had been targeted because he "was spotted first."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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6. United Way Toronto: $116.9
7. SickKids Foundation: $ 110.1
8. Plan International: $107.1
9. Aga Khan Foundation Canada: $98
10. Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation: $80.3

(Source: Charity Intelligence Canada)

Volunteer hours logged

2.07B

The Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating said 94 per cent of Canadians aged 15 and up combined to donate $10.6 billion in 2010. Some 13.3 million people gave their time, combining for 2.07 billion hours of volunteer work — about the same as 1.1 million full-time jobs.

How

- Telemarketing is unpopular and door-to-door appeals have declined substantially. Weinberg says volunteer door-knockers are harder to find and residents may not be at home. If they are, they may not answer for fear of a scam. Supermarket checkout appeals and e-giving are among the alternatives.

Quoted

"Non-profit organizations have to be inventive, have to recognize that the way people part with their money is changing."

Prof. Charles Weinberg, of the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business

Giving less than Americans

0.64%

The Fraser Institute's 2013 Generosity Index found Canadians donated 0.64 per cent of their aggregate incomes to charity in 2011, half the 1.33 per cent given by United States tax filers.

Social beings

- Social media is a novel platform for charities to spread the word and get noticed in a crowded market; the Movember fundraiser is a case in point. But a UBC-led study, The Nature of Slacktivism, found a Facebook "like" for a certain cause often translated to no donation at all. Giving via text message is also highly convenient, especially for disaster relief appeals. CharityIntelligence.ca and CharityFocus.ca offer quick, easy ways to research charities' financial reports, before using portals like CanadaHelps.org and Chimp.net to contribute.

Women slightly more generous

4%

Women were four per cent more likely to donate money to charities than men. The 15-to-34 age group was less likely to give than baby boomers.

Quoted

"There is far more financial pressure on young people these days than there was historically and in terms of time being squeezed for volunteering."

Prof. Peter Elson, director of the Institute for Nonprofit Studies at Calgary's Mount Royal University

It's one man's gig to give year-round

Spreading the joy. Thousands of toys — up to 75,000 — will be donated to children this holiday season

BOB MACKIN
For Metro in Vancouver

Tonka trucks, hockey sticks, Barbie dolls, soccer balls and remote controlled minidrones are stacked on shelves of a modest, three-storey Vancouver warehouse — the secret Santa central, if you will.

The Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau, founded in 1930, helps 1,000 families directly and more than 40,000 children and youth around the region get toys, books and clothes for Christmas.

"It means a lot to me," said Angela Woods as she left the bureau's headquarters with Christmas surprises for her son. "If they didn't have this every year, I wouldn't know what to do. They're awesome up there, they are amazing."

It's the season for giving, and a recent Ipsos Reid poll found that 87 per cent of poll respondents said they enjoy feeling good about giving to charity. Only 13 per cent got the "bah, humbugs" over the thought of giving to a charity during the holidays. That means charities like the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau go from silent to crazy in a very short period.

"The bureau quietly chugs along, collecting toys, disbursing them to other bureaus and shelters, then we open for this three weeks," said executive director Chris Bayliss. "It goes from a quiet, boring, ugly warehouse on the Eastside to often full of volunteers and people, full of fun for a month."

Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau executive director Chris Bayliss in the East Vancouver warehouse, among Okanagan apple bins used for sorting donations. BOB MACKIN/FOR METRO IN VANCOUVER

The Christmas Bureau collects toys at big events throughout fall, from the Greater Vancouver Motorcycle Toy Run to the Vancouver Giants' Teddy Bear Toss to the Pan Pacific Christmas Wish Breakfast, which attracted 15 tonnes of donations on Dec. 11.

"The regional role is changing, as Metro Vancouver grows further afield we get more and more working poor," Bayliss says. "I was brought up my whole life to believe this, we're all two paycheques away from being broke."

In 2001, the Christmas Bureau gave 17,000 donated toys to needy homes. This year, Bayliss estimates some 50,000 to 75,000 toys and books, plus about 5,000 clothes and coats, will put smiles on children's faces.

Bayliss and a part-timer are employed year-round. A dozen workers join for three to 10 weeks in the run-up to Christmas. He estimated volunteers worked 800 person hours on-site last December.

A good way to give

Transparency can aid charities

"Whether you're at the checkout counter, the Salvation Army kettles or when you get the mail, it's almost overwhelming how many 'asks' you get," said Charity Intelligence Canada managing director Kate Bahen.

Bahen's Toronto organization gauges transparency of non-profits and publishes reports on the finances of 500 charities on its website. Bahen said Canadians deserve proof that their donations are spent wisely and make a difference.

"To whom much is given, much is expected," she said.

Charities must "more effectively report what did you do with the money, how did you spend it, who did you work with, what was the social impact?" Bahen said. "How did you help Canada?" METRO

Who

- Canadians who attend a place of worship weekly are more inclined to donate and make larger donations. That's why religious organizations benefitted from $4.26 billion in 2010 donations. The health sector ($1.59 billion) and social services ($1.16 billion) were next in popularity.
- Prof. Charles Weinberg of the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business said planned giving takes a backseat to impulse giving at this time of year. "It's the holiday season, you're in a good mood and what about, sadly, people that don't have enough food or kids that don't have toys?"

Total tax filers

24.8M

The number of tax filers in Canada, according to Statistics Canada: 24,841,630.

Dec. 31

- New Year's Eve is the deadline to donate for the 2013 tax year, but tax breaks were cited as the motivator by only 23 per cent in a 2012 Statistics Canada report on giving.
- Compassion for those in need (90 per cent), belief in a cause (86 per cent) and contributing to the community (80 per cent) were the top three reasons.

2019

- Canadian charities will be forced to adapt for future holiday seasons. By 2019, Canada Post will stop delivering mail door-to-door in urban areas.

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Dennis Rodman back in N. Korea for B-ball game

An unlikely friendship. Ex-NBA star organizing exhibition game with other ex-NBAers for Kim Jong-un's birthday

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman
DAVID GUTTENFELDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman arrived in North Korea on Thursday to meet leader Kim Jong-un and put the finishing touches on plans to bring 12 ex-NBA players to Pyongyang for a Jan. 8 exhibition game marking the leader's birthday.

Rodman said the game is on track despite the recent execution of Kim's uncle in a dramatic political purge.

Rodman's visit comes less than a week after North Korea announced the execution of Jang Song Thaek, an unprecedented fall from grace for one of the most powerful figures in the country. Jang's execution sparked speculation by foreign analysts over the future of the Kim regime.

But officials in Pyongyang say Jang's removal has not caused any instability. Rodman's visit, should it proceed uneventfully, could be a sign that Kim is firmly in charge.

Rodman and Kim have struck up an unlikely friendship since the Hall of Famer travelled to the secretive state for the first time in February with the Harlem Globetrotters for an HBO series produced by New York-based VICE television. He remains the highest-profile American to meet Kim since the leader inherited power from his father, Kim Jong-il, in 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students allowed to retrieve belongings as tributes go on

Students hug at a tribute site Thursday for severely wounded student Claire Davis, who was shot during a school attack six days earlier at Arapahoe High School, in Centennial, Colo. Students were allowed back into school Thursday to retrieve their belongings. BRENNAN LINSLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supreme Court ruling

Cops denied counsel for notes

Allowing police officers under investigation by watchdogs to consult with lawyers before preparing their notes is "anathema" to transparency and public trust in that process, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Thursday.

The high-court ruling, by a margin of 6-3, pitted officers against the families of two men shot dead by Ontario's provincial police in separate incidents in 2009.

The ruling offers clarity to the regulations that govern Ontario's Special Investigations Unit, which investigates violent incidents involving police officers.

"First, consultation with counsel at the note-making stage is antithetical to the dominant purpose of the legislative scheme because it risks eroding the public confidence that the SIU process was meant to foster," wrote Justice Michael Moldaver for the majority.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Microfilms give people of China a voice

Big impact.
The small films have 'become a democratic means for expression'

People in China watch them in the subway, on buses, even as they walk down a sidewalk: Homegrown short films that are low-budget, intensely popular and accessible to anyone with a smartphone.

Microfilms, uploaded to Chinese YouTube-style and video-streaming sites, offer themes and subjects not shown in the country's strictly censored cinemas. And thanks to video-capturing smartphones and basic editing software available on laptops, anyone can be a director.

Democratic medium

"The barrier for making a film has been brought so low it really has become a democratic means for expression."
Chinese film critic Raymond Zhou

The genre of microfilms, usually less than 40 minutes long, has exploded in China over the past few years, stretching the boundaries of what can be shown, including pieces on gender and homosexuality. It is constrained by the self-censorship the government requires of the country's video-streaming sites, and it has not become overtly political. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The set of a microfilm near Beijing in October. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Faux is the new black.
Vegan leather, fake fur so hot this Christmas

Finding a knockoff version of the fur you want under the Christmas tree would ordinarily be a disappointment.

Not this year.

Faux is the new black this season for holiday gifts. But this isn't the "pleather" of the 1980s — that cheap, plastic-looking material made popular by Michael Jackson during his Thriller days.

A $198 fuzzy brown coat at Banana Republic has a prominently placed tag that reads "faux fur."

Banana Republic's Fair Isle faux-fur neck warmer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dresses with "vegan leather" accents are flying off virtual shelves at shopbop.com. And at luxury retailer Barney's, a Marni faux leather three-quarter sleeve jacket sells for $1,900.

Faux is gaining popularity in part because there have been advances in technology enabling designers to make better-looking fakes. In a still-shaky economy that has made Americans more frugal, faux also can be seen as a good way to be trendy without breaking the bank. And a movement toward socially conscious shopping makes some people feel better about faux purchases.

It helps that some A-listers have given faux their seal of approval. Models have been seen on the runway wearing faux leather pieces in shows for big-name designers like Tom Ford and Rag & Bone. And actresses Anne Hathaway and Kate Hudson have strutted on the red carpet in faux leather and fur.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bargain is always in style

"Even though they're faux, they look real, and they're bigger than you can get if they were real ... Plus, they're a lot cheaper."
Kristen Clerkin, 23, from Whitney Point, N.Y., is hoping to get faux pearls for Christmas this year because she thinks they're classic and classy, not to mention more affordable than real ones.

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Northern Gateway pipeline from Alberta to B.C. clears latest hurdle

Oilsands to West Coast. Review panel OKs hotly contested project, while opponents vow to keep fighting plan

A review panel has given its blessing to the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline that would carry bitumen from Alberta's oilsands to tankers on the West Coast, but opponents warn their battle against the multibillion-dollar project is far from over.

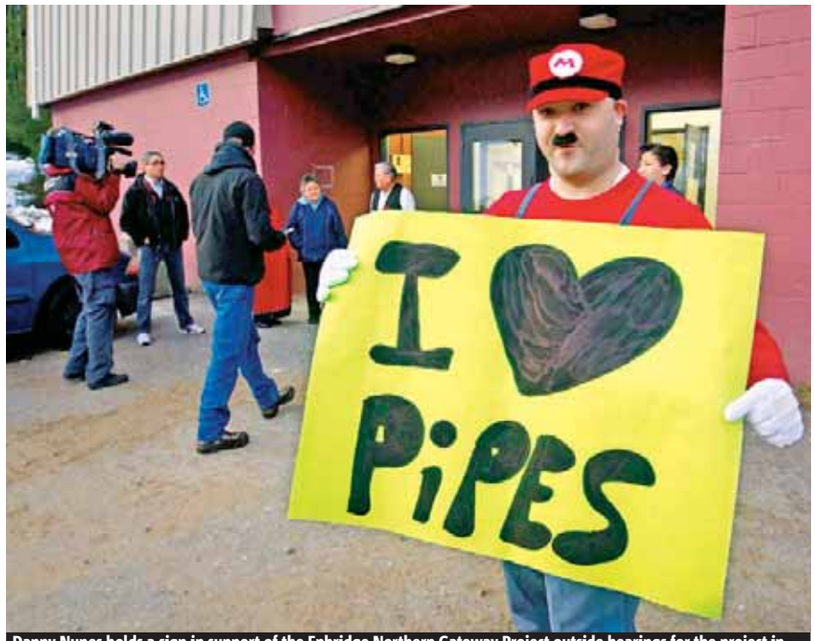
The panel, which released its long-awaited report on Thursday, has attached 209 conditions, which cover everything from protecting caribou habitat to research into how the oil would behave in a marine environment to the company's spill response plans.

"After weighing the evidence, we concluded that Canada and Canadians would be better off with the Enbridge Northern Gateway project than without it," the three-member panel said in its report.

The controversial proposal has pitted Calgary-based Enbridge against environmental groups and several First Nations, who have raised concerns about potential oil spills on land or in the water off the B.C. coast.

Supporters say the pipeline is critical if Alberta is to get its oil to emerging markets in Asia. The panel agreed.

"We have taken the view that opening Pacific Basin markets is important to the Canadian economy and society." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Danny Nunes holds a sign in support of the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project outside hearings for the project in Kitamaat Village, B.C., last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not over yet

Activists, First Nations speak out

Reaction from opponents was swift.

ForestEthics Advocacy's Ben West likened the recommendation to "throwing fuel on a fire."

Greenpeace campaigner Mike Hudema said opponents will do "what it takes" to ensure Northern Gateway is never built.

Arnold Clifton of the Gitga'at First Nation said the panel's recommendation is "by no means the final say."

"All options are on the table," said Clifton, chief councillor and hereditary chief of the community located along the proposed tanker route.

Market Minute

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Dow Jones: 16,179.08 (+11.11)

Take a bow, Canada

American happy we no longer get home mail delivery

The announced demise of home mail delivery in Canada has prompted a celebratory reaction from one U.S. lawmaker, who longs to see his own country adopt a similar reform to end residential postal service.

Last week's news had Republican congressman Darrell Issa issuing a statement saying he "applauded" Canada for applying a principle found in his own bill to overhaul the United States Postal Service.

"As technology advances, the Canadian people are changing the way they use paper mail. Canada Post has recognized this reality and responded to it. The Canadian government is supportive of its decision to modernize," said the California representative.

"The American people have also changed the way they use paper mail and the cash-strapped United States Postal Service must respond accordingly."

Americans are grappling, like their neighbours to the north and more distant nations around the planet, with ways to reform the post office in an era of technology-driven disruption of traditional business models. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ORDER SNACKS VIA TWEET?

THE METRO LIST

Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 Twitter vending machines. Telus created a Twitter-enabled vending machine at the Pacific Centre Shopping Mall in Vancouver that rewards tweeting consumers with toy pandas as part of a partnership with the World Wildlife Fund. They're on to something, I hope. In the future, I'll be able to tweet a vending machine using a hashtag such as #bbqdoritos, and out that bag will come.

2 Instagram messaging. The social media photo site has introduced Instagram Direct, allowing you to message your buds photos and videos. Hmmm, isn't Snapchat for private messaging someone a photo or video? (Well, true, those disappear). My wish is to someday be tweeting a Instagram photo via direct message on Snapchat using Facebook. That will simplify everything.

3 Beyoncé's social media blitz. Forgoing traditional media channels, Beyoncé released her latest album with a simple "Surprise!" to her more than eight million Instagram followers — and the full album appeared for sale on iTunes. It hit a record for albums sold on the site. Goes to show (again) that sometimes the best marketing is no marketing. Of course, it helps if you're a pop-culture icon.

4 Arlene Dickinson. One of my fave stars of Dragons' Den has a new book out, All In, about balancing your personal and professional life when you're a entrepreneur. I fancy myself an entrepreneur, so I'll be reading it this Christmas morning when I receive it as a stocking stuffer from my wife. If she reads this.

5 Stuff on Scout's Head. Photos of pets on the Internet — particularly cats and dogs — do really, *really* well. The most famous is Grumpy Cat, discovered on news site Reddit. An up-and-coming contender perhaps is the Canadian version: Stuff on Scout's Head, which features a pit bull with stuff that his owner puts on his head — everything from a toque to a pie to a skateboard. I cannot explain the Internet.

6 Peterborough turkey. A picture of a turkey standing in a transit shelter next to a Canada Post box in Peterborough, Ont., went viral this week. The turkey had been stopping traffic recently on a major road. At least it's learning to take the bus now. So why else did this turkey pic catch on? "Turkeys — they are like kittens with beaks," one person tweeted.

7 Survivor brand. Tyson Apostol won the 27th edition of the TV show Survivor in a rather lacklustre season that ended with the lowest rating for a Survivor finale ever. With the iconic reality show slumping in ratings in recent years, it may be time to reinvent the brand. Add more villains. Or have only villains. The world loves watching villains on TV. Or just let all competitors use social media.

8 Carl McCoid. This guy from Yorkshire, England, keeps getting tattoos of Miley Cyrus. He now has 22 different ones of her. This guy is a human wrecking ball with Miley Cyrus all over him.

9 Sorry, we're great. A CNN post titled 10 Things Canada Does Better Than Anywhere Else got a lot of attention this week with its list that included apologizing, lake and cottage country, stand-in movie locations, humour and more. Sorry, but the only thing they missed is beer. We make (and drink) better beer than anyone, eh?

10 Scarlett Johansson and cheese. Under the headline Scarlett Johansson Has Weird Feelings About Cheese, on NY Magazine, the actress was quoted as saying: "I don't eat it, but I love it ... I like to smell cheese, I like to watch people enjoying it and I like to encourage people to eat cheeses I know taste really good. But I don't eat it anymore because my body just does better without it." Life doesn't get weirder or cheesier than that.

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ZOOM

Photo shoot goes swimmingly

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Museum has a few bones to pick

For most people, fish bones may be just an annoyance at dinnertime.

But a new exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Nature, in Ottawa, could give viewers a broader perspective.

X-rays of Arctic Fishes, opening Jan. 11, features images that show "the spectacular osteological architecture of fishes," such as this X-ray of a boa dragonfish (pictured), says museum ichthyologist (fish scientist) Noel Alfonso.

Fish are considered to have the most complex bone structures of all vertebrates. That makes osteology — the study of bones — more challenging with fish than with other animals possessing a spinal column.

As revealed in X-rays, the number of vertebrae can be used to differentiate one fish species from another, Alfonso said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skin, bone and dinner

- An X-ray of a 14-centimetre-long boa dragonfish (not pictured), reveals a fish in its stomach. That makes this specimen a rare find, since "these things can often go for months without feeding," said Alfonso.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

CONTRIBUTED

If the dark mornings, cold evenings and slushy all-the-times have you taking your fitness routine inside, don't sweat it. Or rather do (but without the monotony of the exercise machine). From the makers of Guitar Hero, Goji Play is the latest 'gamercising' gimmick helping gamers get to the gym. Using two wireless controllers and a clip-on sensor, gym-goers can turn their treadmill into a gaming console while blasting away Christmas calories. As you ramp up the speed on the stepper, watch as your character gains power and speed — while keeping track of your sweaty stats (kilometres, calories, etc.). Here's a couple of games to get you started.

Fisticuffs:
Get in the ring with fighters including a drunken sailor, angry Viking and top-hat wearing bar keeper.

Shine Runner:
Cruise around the bayou in a fan boat picking up moonshine, snake oil and crawdads as ammo to keep you in the game.

Super Moto X:
Race through a city of the future while jumping over obstacles, avoiding slow zones and steering clear of the 5-0.

Comments

RE: 'Outdated' Nova Scotia Law Requires All Men To Shovel Highway Snow, published online Dec. 18

Pssh. Subsection A: All physically fit female persons between the ages of 16 and 60 are required to make hot chocolate with marshmallows on the highways during winter for the male persons who work with their shovels on the highways during winter. **Aeric posted to metronews.ca**

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metro

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Synopsis

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues opened this week bringing confident but thick news anchor Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell) back to the big screen after a nine year absence. The first film made catchphrases like, "I love scotch. Scotchy, scotch, scotch," and the names Brick Tamland (Steve Carell), Brian Fantana (Paul Rudd) and Champion "Champ" Kind (David Koechner) household words. In celebration of the return of the team from San Diego's KVWN Channel 4 the Reel Guys have a look back at the career of funnyman Will Ferrell.

Will Ferrell reprises his role as blustering anchorman Ron Burgundy in Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues. CONTRIBUTED

Where there's a Will, there's a way to laugh

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Funnyman Ferrell. In honour of the return of Ron Burgundy, the Reel Guys review their favourite Ferrell flicks

Richard: Mark, I think Will Ferrell is one of the bravest comedic actors working today; someone willing to do anything for a laugh. Trouble is, I often don't laugh. Anchorman is laugh-out-loud funny. Ditto Elf and Old School, but sometimes I feel he has to rein the manic energy in, do half as much and maybe be twice as funny. Having said that, the Shark Week jokes in Step Brothers really make me giggle.

Mark: Richard, I share your ambivalence toward Ferrell. He's not my go-to guy for funny. Still, he's done some great work. My favourite Will Ferrell movies are two indie films he's starred in: Stranger Than Fiction and Everything Must Go. They're the equivalent of Jim Carrey's work in The Truman Show and Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. Maybe not huge crowd pleasers, but they show the true breadth of his talent.

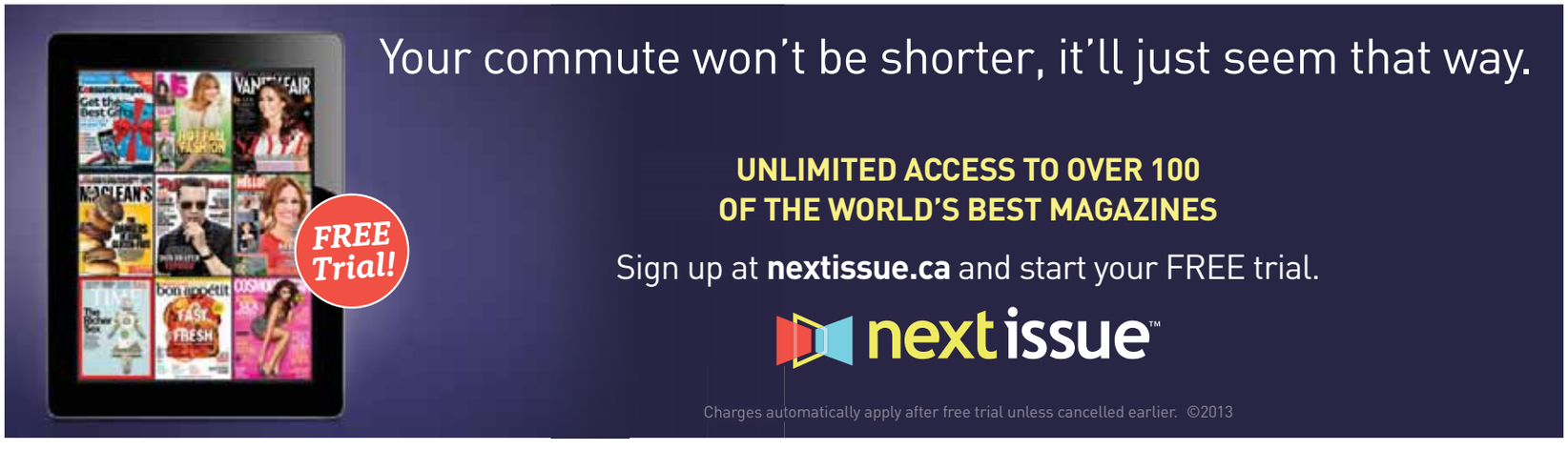
RC: I agree. I think Stranger Than Fiction is worth a rental. It's touching and funny, which for me is Ferrell's sweet spot. A Night at the Roxbury is a silly comedy but Ferrell's wide-eyed performance is the kind of thing I like from him. Outrageous, yes, but underneath the silly is a real guy. Sometimes I can't see the real guy underneath his characters and those are his movies that don't work for me. Except Zoolander. As fashion guru Mugatu he's so strange he dares you not to laugh at him.

MB: Yes, he's sometimes better in a supporting role in which his over-the-top zaniness doesn't sink the whole picture. Mugatu for sure, but also the mattress salesman in The Internship or Franz in The Producers. But generally, I find his man-child jock character wearying. Which is why, I think, Anchorman is such a successful movie. It's a Will Ferrell movie for people who don't care for Will Ferrell movies. Did you enjoy the sequel, Richard?

RC: I did. I think there is a lot of life left in Ron Burgundy. It's funny in an outrageous way. It's a bit too long, (and don't bother sitting through to the post credit scene unless you find the sight of Steve Carell eating cookies hilarious) but the buffoonery level is high in a season where serious drama seems to be the ticket.

In the last couple of weeks I have seen Ferrell, in character, sit in on some local newscasts and he fit right in. As long as there is media, egomaniac announcers and local news, there will be a place for Ron Burgundy.

MB: Yes, but let's not forget he's supported by a stellar cast of comic actors: Paul Rudd, Jim Carrey, Steve Carell, Vince Vaughn, Kristen Wiig. Even if Ferrell isn't your cup of tea, it's hard to believe this movie won't work.



Martin Scorsese. Out of the director's chair and into the question seat

Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio are co-producers on the Wolf of Wall Street. CONTRIBUTED

Martin Scorsese loves talking about other filmmaker's pictures, as witness are his numerous documentaries on cinema history. But occasionally he's up for talking about his own. His latest, The Wolf of Wall Street, is an even more hedonistic romp than Goodfellas, with arguably worse villains: brokers (led by Leonardo DiCaprio) who, from the '80s through the '90s, preyed on the dupes and made a fortune.

On how he's slow to come around to suggested projects: "I read the script [of Wolf of Wall Street] many times. For me, when something is given to me by other people, I don't necessarily respond to it right away. King of Comedy — that was 10 years before I was able to come around to it. Raging Bull took six, seven years. I have to find my own way with it, I think."

On taking on risky projects (like this): "The issue is: is it worth fighting that proves? Because it's all about fighting, unfortunately. It's not about good people or bad people — it's about what [the execs] need, what they want to do, what could deliver for the market place. It might not be worth it at a certain time in your life."

On his despicable characters (in Wolf, that is): "They're human beings. And we are not all one thing, are we? We're capable of many different things in different circumstances. … I'm interested in people who are good who do bad things."

MATT PRIGGE/MWN

Changing business

- **Scorsese on the new Hollywood.** "I don't know who's calling the shots anymore. Seriously. The cinema we know and the cinema we took seriously when we were growing up, it's all changed now. Particularly in a marketplace like this … Everything's about where the money is."

Leo's just a sheep in big bad wolf clothes

Wolf of Wall Street. As a boy DiCaprio dreamed of working with Scorsese, and now they're co-conspirators

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Leonardo DiCaprio plays hedonistic broker Jordan Belfort in Wolf of Wall Street, opening Dec. 25. CONTRIBUTED

Leonardo DiCaprio always wanted to be a Martin Scorsese actor. "I remember my father taking me to see one of his movies," the actor recalls. "He said, 'If you have the opportunity and a green light in this industry, there's one person you should work with.'"

It was the director of Mean Streets, Goodfellas, Raging Bull, After Hours.

And when DiCaprio became the biggest actor in the world, it wasn't too long before he was headlining Scorsese's Gangs of New York.

Their fifth film together — including The Departed and Shutter Island — was DiCaprio's idea. He read The Wolf of Wall Street, a tell-all memoir by unfathomably hedonistic broker Jordan Belfort, and felt it would fit Scorsese's sensibilities, in addition to being sobering commentary.

"I thought [his book] was a reflection of everything that was wrong with today's society," he says, chuckling.

"Jordan gave into every carnal indulgence possible."

The film, written by Boardwalk Empire scribe Terence Winter, chronicles the many hedonistic exploits of Belfort, who rises from a nobody selling penny stocks by the thousands to schnooks to dominating the Financial District.

"He represents something within our very nature, something that is very wrong. You can point to those attributes to everything's going on in our world today," DiCaprio says. But he adds,

"He's not the problem. I quickly realized these weren't the fat cats that were destroying our economy. They were the street urchins. They were part of the underworld trying to create a little island and emulating Gordon Gekko," he explains, referencing Michael Douglas' slick-haired Wall Street villain (and, to some, an idol).

"They were trying to be the guys that were robbing our country of billions and billions of dollars."

DiCaprio spent time with Belfort, who he describes as reformed.

"He looks at this [period] as an isolated period in his life. He's been paying the price ever since, trying to pay his debt to everyone he ripped off."

Belfort even told him how to play high on 'ludes, for a lengthy sequence where he and the fellow broker played by Jonah Hill take too many drugs and find their bodies won't work. "He told me what quaaludes were like," he recalls. "I had him rolling around on the floor for me."

He also says he watched, on a loop, a YouTube clip called The World's Drunkest Man, in which someone tries to get a beer but his body won't let him.

As for reuniting again with Scorsese, he's predictably gushy, talking about a mantra he gave him: "As long as you portray these people for what they are, and you don't try to sugarcoat them or apologize for their actions or depict them in any way apart from what they are, audiences will go along with you."

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Animation/Family

Walking with Dinosaurs 3D

Directors. Barry Cook, Neil Nightingale

Stars. Charlie Rowe, Karl Urban

This is a really odd movie. It looks like a high-end educational documentary you'd see on the History Channel, but anyone with more than a Grade 2 reading level will find the story slow and clichéd. The computer animated story of a herd of migrating dinosaurs and the dangers they face is beautiful looking but dragged down by terrible voice work. Imagine Jurassic Park without Jeff Goldblum or the fun and you get the idea.

RICHARD CROUSE

Biography Comedy

Saving Mr. Banks

Director. John Lee Hancock

Stars. Tom Hanks, Emma Thompson

The story of Walt Disney's (Tom Hanks) efforts to convince author P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) to sell the rights to Mary Poppins is actually two stories folded into one. The first is a Hollywood tale, the second a psychological drama told in flashbacks about Travers's troubled father (Colin Farrell). Fine performances abound but this is Thompson's movie. Her portrayal of Travers is nuanced, split between the cantankerous woman she became with echoes of the innocent young girl she once was. **RICHARD CROUSE**

Crime/Drama

American Hustle

Director. David O. Russell

Stars. Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper

American Hustle sees con artists Irving Rosenfeld (Christian Bale) and Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams) threatened with arrest unless they cooperate with ambitious FBI agent Richie DiMaso (Bradley Cooper). They help him run a complicated corruption investigation involving New Jersey mayor Carmen Polito (Jeremy Renner) but the sting gets out of control when the Mafia gets involved. Of the great ensemble cast Jennifer Lawrence really stands out in an entertainingly audacious movie.

RICHARD CROUSE

Horror/Mystery

Haunter

Director. Vincenzo Natali

Stars. Abigail Breslin, Michelle Nolden

Abigail Breslin (Little Miss Sunshine) toplines this solid Canadian chiller, a dark mood piece about a teenage girl who comes to realize that she and her kin are in fact dead while she tries to make contact with the living family occupying her home. Breslin is a solid Can-Con horror hero Vincenzo Natali (Splice) directs with artful elegance and Kubrickian detachment and Stephen McHattie (Pontypool) steals scenes as only he can. The film isn't particularly scary, however it oozes atmosphere.

CHRIS ALEXANDER

Say it ain't so, Shia. Star in hot water over 'blatant' theft of other artist's work

There may be legal ramifications for Shia LaBeouf after he acknowledged borrowing from another artist's work without giving proper credit.

LaBeouf debuted his short film, Howard Cantour.com, online on Monday starring Jim Gaffigan. It examines the life of an anguished online film critic. That was also the story line of a 2007 graphic novella by artist Daniel Clowes titled Justin M. Damiano.

Clowes declined to comment directly, but according to his publisher, Fantagraphics' Eric Reynolds, Clowes "is exploring his legal options."

Reynolds said Wednesday he was "baffled" by the news of LaBeouf's project, which he and Clowes got wind of on Monday. "LaBeouf changed the name of the main character, but he used the comic as a direct script and storyboard," Reynolds said. "Clowes has a real melodramatic voice that is very idiosyncratic and LaBeouf just used the dialogue word for word. There is no ambiguity.

Shia LaBeouf
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There is no way that anybody wrote this but Dan Clowes. It just defies any kind of logic or good sense. This was so blatant and inexcusable that it was as baffling as it was appalling."

LaBeouf's short began to circulate in 2012 at festivals like the Cannes Film Festival, but was just posted online officially on Monday. Soon afterward, it was taken down, and LaBeouf took to Twitter to apologize for lifting ideas from Clowes' work and passing them off as his own.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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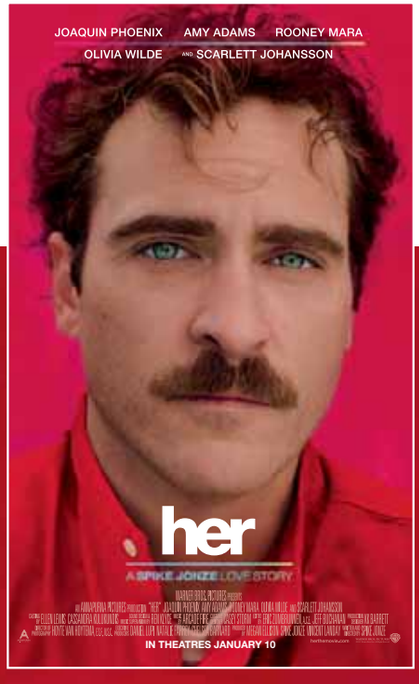

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 20 TO THURS., DEC. 26 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Canyon Meadows Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail

About Time (14A) Fri-Mon 12:55-3:40-6:50-9:40 Tue 12:55 Thu 12:55-3:40-6:50-9:40
Blue Jasmine (PG) Fri-Mon 12:45-4:15-7:05-9:50
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Mon 1:15-4-6:50-9:30 Tue 12:45 Thu 1:15-4-6:50-9:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Mon 1-3:55-7:25 Tue 1 Thu 1-3:55-7:25
The Counselor (14A) Fri-Mon 9:50 Thu 9:50
Despicable Me 2 (G) Fri-Mon 1:30-4:20-7:20 Tue 1:30 Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Mon 12:50-3:50-7-9:45 Tue 12:50 Thu 12:50-3:50-7-9:45
Enough Said (PG) Fri-Mon 1:10-7:15 Thu 1:10-7:15
Escape Plan (14A) Fri-Mon 4:10-9:55 Thu 4:10-9:55
Free Birds (G) Fri-Mon 1:35-4:10 Tue 1:35 Thu 1:35-4:10
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri-Mon 7:35-10 Thu 7:35-10
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Mon 1:05-4-7:10-9:55 Tue 1:05 Thu 1:05-4-7:10-9:55
Lee Daniels' The Butler (14A) Fri-Mon 1:05-4:05-6:45-9:35 Tue 12:45 Thu 1:05-4:05-6:45-9:35
No Films Showing Today (STC) Wed
Rush (14A) Fri-Tue 9:45 Thu 9:45

Crowfoot Crossing 91 Crowfoot Terrace

47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed 4:40-7:30-10:25 No Passes Thu 11:10-1:55-4:45-7:35-10:25
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Mon 12:35-3:45-7-10:15 Tue 12:35-3:45-7 Wed 4-7-10 Thu 12:30-3:45-7-10:15
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) No Passes Fri 2-4:50-7:35-10:30 No Passes Sat 11-2-4:50-7:35-10:30 No Passes Sun-Mon 2-4:50-7:35-10:30 No Passes Tue 2-4:45-7:30 No Passes Wed 4:55-7:40-10:35 No Passes Thu 11:20-2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-6:55 Sun 6:55 Mon 12:30 Tue 12:30-6:25
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Mon 12:10-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:25 Tue 12:10-2:45-5:15-7:45
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Fri-Mon 11:40-2:25-5:05 Tue 11:40-2:25 Wed 3:55 Thu 11
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Mon 1:15-3:55-6:35-9:30 Tue 1:15-3:55-6:35 Wed 6:35-9:30 Thu 1:35-4:15-6:55-9:35
Grudge Match (14A) No Passes Wed 4:30-7:25-10:20 No Passes Thu 11:05-1:45-4:35-7:25-10:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 11:30-2:55-6:20-9:45 No Passes Tue 11:30-2:55-6:20 No Passes Wed 2:45-6:20-9:45 No Passes Thu 11:30-2:55-6:20-9:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:45-4:35-8:05 No Passes Tue 12:20-3:50-7:15 No Passes Wed 3:10-6:45-10:10 No Passes Thu 11:55-3:20-6:45-10:10 No Passes Fri-Mon 11:55-3:20-6:45-10:10 No Passes Tue 11:55-3:20-6:45
Holiday Inn (STC) Mon 7
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Mon 11:45-3:10-6:30-9:50 Tue 11:45-3:10-6:30 Wed 3-6:25-9:50 Thu 11:40-3:10-6:35-9:50
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Mon 4:10-9:55 Tue 3:30
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:05 No Passes Tue 1:35-4:25-7:15 No Passes Wed 4:15-7:10-10:05 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:25-7:15-10:05
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes Wed 2:30-5:15-8-10:45 No Passes Thu 11:45-2:30-5:15-8-10:45
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 7:45-10:35 Tue 5-7:45
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri-Tue 12:15 Wed 2:40 Thu 12:10
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 2:35-5-7:20-9:40 Tue 2:35-5-7:20 Wed 5-7:20-9:40 Thu 2:45-5-7:20-9:40
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 2:25-6:10-9:55 No Passes Thu 11-2:25-6:10-9:55

Eau Claire Market 200 Barlay Parade

American Hustle (14A) Fri 3:40-7:10-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-7:10-10:15 Mon 3:40-7:10-10:15 Tue 12:40-3:40-7:10 Wed-Thu 3:50-7-10:10 Thu 12:30
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 3:20-6:35-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:35-9:30 Mon 3:20-6:35-9:30 Tue 12:30-3:20-6:35
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri 4:30-7:20-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:50-4:30-7:20-10:10 Mon 4:30-7:20-10:10 Tue 12:50-4:30-7:20 Wed 4:20-7:15-10 Thu 1-4:20-7:15-10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 3-6:25-9:50 No Passes Tue 3-6:25 No Passes Wed 6:20-9:50 No Passes Thu 2:50-6:20-9:50
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 3:30-6:50-10 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-10 Mon 3:30-6:50-10 Tue 12:20-3:30-6:50
Inside Llewyn Davis (14A) Wed 4:10-6:50-9:30 Thu 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:30
Nebraska (14A) Fri 4:20-7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1-4:20-7-9:40 Mon 4:20-7-9:40 Tue 1-4:20-7 Wed 4-6:40-9:40 Thu 12:50-4-6:40-9:40
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 4:30-8:30 No Passes Thu 12:40-4:30-8:30

Landmark Cinemas 16 Country Hills 388 Country Hills Blvd.

47 Ronin (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:25
47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 6:20-9:50 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:20-6:20-9:50
American Hustle (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 11:45-3:10-6:40-10:20 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 11:45-3:10-6:40 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:10-6:40-10:20 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:20
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:30-12:40-3:30-3:50-6:30-7-9:30-10:10 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:30-12:40-3:30-3:50-6:30-7 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:30-3:50-6:30-7-9:30-10:10 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:25-12:45-3:30-3:50-6:30-7-9:30-10:10
Believe (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:10-9:35 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 11:30-9:35
Delivery Man (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1-4:05-6:50-9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 1-4:05-6:50
Dhoom 3 (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:15-5-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 1:15-5 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3-6:25-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:15-5-9
Frozen (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:50-3:40-6:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:05-9:55
Frozen 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:10-3:05-6:30-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:10-3:05-6:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 7:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 11:50-7:10
Grudge Match (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3-6:10-9:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:05-3-6:10-9:10
Haunter (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 4
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12-4-8 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 11:30-4 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 6:25-9:50 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:10-4-8:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:15-1-3:55-5-6-7:45-9-9:55 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 11:50-12:15-1-3:55-5-6-7:45-9-9:55 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 11:50-12:15-1-3:55-5-6 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:55-7:45 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 11:40-3:55-7:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 11:30-4:10-8 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 11:30-4:10 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3-6:30-10 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12-4-8
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 11:45-3:10-7-9:45-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 11:45-3-6:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 7-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3:10-7-10:15
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 4:10-8 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:05-4:10-8
Philomena (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:20-3:40-6:15-9:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:20-3:40-6:15
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 11:55-3:20-6:50-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 11:55-3:20-6:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:20-6:50-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 11:50-3:20-6:50-10
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 3:40-6:50-9:35 No Passes, Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:35
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 3:35 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 4
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:40-6:40-9:30 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:40-6:40 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 6:40 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1-6:40
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:40-7:30 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 11:30-3:40-7:30

Landmark Cinemas 10 Shawnessy & EXTRA Calgarytudio 100-16061 MacLeod Trail

47 Ronin (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3
47 Ronin 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 7:15-10:15 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 11:45-7:15-10:15
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:15-4:40-7:40-10:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Tue 1:15-4:40-7:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 4:20-7:30-10:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:30
Frozen (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:30-3:45-6:45 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:40
Frozen 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1-4:15-7:15-10:20 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Tue 1-4:15-7:15
Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 6:45 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 12:30-6:45
Grudge Match (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 4:45-7:45-10:35 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:35
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 2-6:15-10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Tue 2-6:15 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 4 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 12
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 11:30-12-3:30-4-7:30-8 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Tue 11:30-12-3:30-6-7 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 8 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 4-8 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:45-4:30-8:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Tue 3-6:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 4:30-8:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 12:45-4:30-8:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 11:45-6:15-6:45-9:45-10:10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Tue 11:45-3:15-6:45 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 9:45
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Tue 12:15-3:20-6:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 3:15-6:30-9:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 12:15-3:15-6:30-9:30
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 3:50-7-10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 1-3:50-7-10
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 4:20 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 4:10
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:30-7-9:20 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Tue 1:30-7 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 6:15-9:20 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30-6:15-9:20
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 3:30-8:15 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 11:30-3:30-8:15

Scotiabank Chinook
6455 MacLeod Trail

47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed 2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35 No Passes Thu 11:20-2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Mon 12:10-1:15-3:35-4:25-6:50-7:45-10:15-11 Tue 1-2-4:20-5:20-7:50-8:50 Wed 1:15-3:35-4:25-6:50-7:45-10:15-11 Thu 12:10-1:15-3:35-4:25-6:50-7:45-10:15-11
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) No Passes Fri-Mon 1-3:55-6:50-9:45 No Passes Tue 11:30-2:50-6:20-9:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 1-4-7-10 No Passes Fri 2:10-5:05-8-10:55 No Passes Sat 11:15-2:10-5:05-8-10:55 No Passes Sun-Tue 2:10-5:05-8-10:55 No Passes Wed 2:10-5:05-8-10:50 No Passes Thu 11:15-2:10-5:05-8-10:50
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:20-7:05-9:45
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sun 11
Frozen (G) Fri-Tue 11:20-2:05-4:50 Thu 11:45-2:35
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Mon 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Tue 12-2:35-5:15-7:50 Wed 2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Thu 5:15-7:50-10:25
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 7:50-10:10 Tue 9:10
Grudge Match (14A) No Passes Wed 2-4:50-7:35-10:25 No Passes Thu 11:40-4:30-7:20-10:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:30-2:30-5:10-6:15-8:45-9:55 No Passes Sun 1:30-5:10-6:15-8:45-9:55 No Passes Mon 1:30-2:30-5:10-6:15-8:45-9:55 No Passes Tue 12:20-1-4:05-4:35-8-8:40 No Passes Wed-Thu 2:30-6:15-9:55
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Tue 2-6-9:45 No Passes Wed 3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Thu 12-3:30-7:10-10:50
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Tue 1:30-5:15-9 No Passes Wed 3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Thu 11:30-3-6:40-10:20
Holiday Inn (STC) Mon 7
Homefront (14A) Fri-Mon 11:45-2:15-4:55-7:35-10:05 Tue 11:45-2:15-4:55-7:35
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 11:50-12:50-3:20-4-6:45-7:25-10-10:55 Mon 11:50-12:50-3:20-4-7:25-10-10:55 Tue 11:50-2:10-3:20-5:35-6:45-9-10 Wed-Thu 12:50-4-7:25-10:55
Justin Bieber's Believe (G) Wed-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:15-9:50
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (PG) Wed 3-6:50-10:20 Thu 11:30-3-6:50-10:05
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 No Passes Sun 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 No Passes Mon 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 No Passes Tue 11:40-3-6:30-9:30 No Passes Wed 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 No Passes Thu 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes Wed 2:45-5:30-8:15-11 No Passes Thu 11:50-2:45-5:30-8:15-11
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Sun 11:10-2:20 Mon 12:40-3:50 Tue 1:50
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 5:10-8-10:55 Mon 9:30 Tue 4:45-8
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri-Tue 11:05-1:20 Wed 1:20 Thu 11:05-1:20
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 3:45-6-8:15-10:35 Tue 3:45-6-8:15 Wed-Thu 3:45-6-8:15-10:35
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 2:10-6:10-10:10 No Passes Thu 12:30-2:40-6:30-10:20

Plaza Theatre
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W.

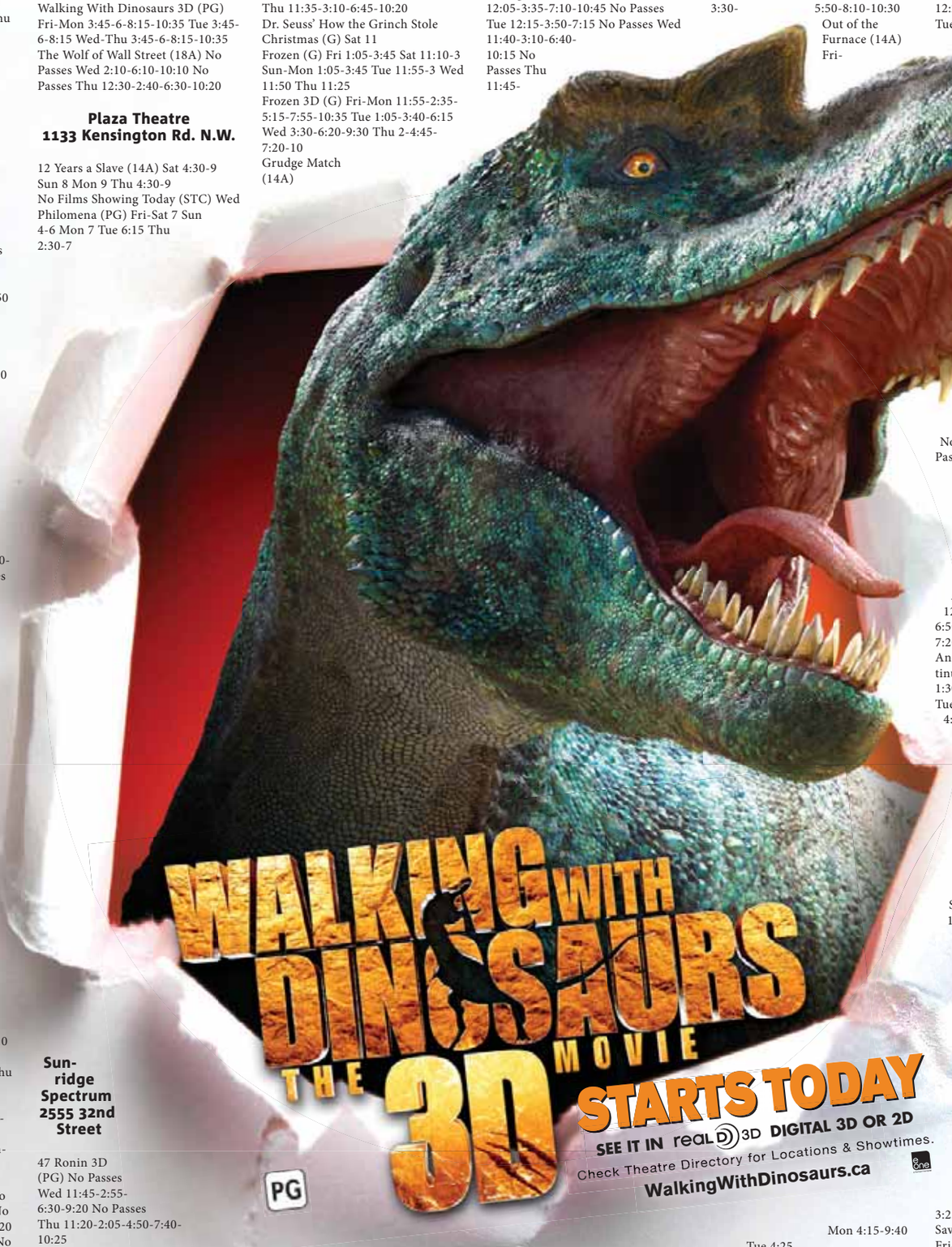
12 Years a Slave (14A) Sat 4:30-9 Sun 8 Mon 9 Thu 4:30-9
No Films Showing Today (STC) Wed
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sat 7 Sun 4-6 Mon 7 Tue 6:15 Thu 2:30-7
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Mon 1:35-7:05 Tue 1:40-7:05
Dhoom 3 (STC) Fri-Mon 1:15-5-9:10 Tue 1:20-5 Wed 1:15-4:55-9 Thu 11:35-3:10-6:45-10:20
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Fri 1:05-3:45 Sat 11:10-3 Sun-Mon 1:05-3:45 Tue 11:55-3 Wed 11:50 Thu 11:25
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Mon 11:55-2:35-5:15-7:55-10:35 Tue 1:05-3:40-6:15 Wed 3:30-6:20-9:30 Thu 2-4:45-7:20-10
Grudge Match (14A)
Wed 12:40-4:10-7:50 No Passes Thu 11:10-2:40-6:10-9:40
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:05-3:35-7:10-10:45 No Passes Tue 12:15-3:50-7:15 No Passes Wed 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:15 No Passes Thu 11:45-3:15-6:40-10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri 1-4:30-8:10 No Passes Sat 1-4:30-8:20 No Passes Sun-Mon 1-4:30-8:10 No Passes Tue 12:40-4:15 No Passes Wed 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:55-2:35-5:15-7:55-10:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri 1-4:30-8:10 No Passes Sat 1-4:30-8:20 No Passes Sun-Mon 1-4:30-8:10 No Passes Tue 12:40-4:15 No Passes Wed 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:55-2:35-5:15-7:55-10:45
No Passes Fri-Mon 11:45-1:45-3:15-5:20-6:50-9-10:20 No Passes Tue 11:45-1:15-3:15-4:45-6:45
Homefront (14A) Fri-Mon 6:35-10:10 Tue 6:35
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Mon 12:45-4-7:20-10:40 Tue 12:50-4-7:20 Wed 12:25-3:40-7:10-10:25 Thu 11-2:30-6:30-10:10
Justin Bieber's Believe (G) Wed 12:15-3-6:15-9:15 Thu 10:50-1:10-3:30-5:50-8:10-10:30
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Mon 2:45-5:05-7:25-9:45 Tue 2:45-5:05-7:25 Wed 2:45-5:05-7:25-9:45 Thu 1:15-3:30-5:50-8:10-10:30
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 12-4:05-8:50 No Passes Thu 11:10-3-6:50-10:40
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Mon 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:30 Tue 12:25-3:35-6:30
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri 12:25 Sat 11-12:25 Sun-Mon 12:25 Tue-Wed 12:30 Thu 11
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 2:45-5:05-7:25-9:45 Tue 2:45-5:05-7:25 Wed 2:45-5:05-7:25-9:45 Thu 1:15-3:30-5:50-8:10-10:30
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 12-4:05-8:50 No Passes Thu 11:10-3-6:50-10:40

Westhills 10
165 Stewart Green

47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed 4:25-7:15-10:05 No Passes Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Mon 12:20-3:35-6:50-10 Tue 12:20-3:35-6:50 Wed 3:35-6:50-10 Thu 12:50-4-7:20-10:35
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:15 No Passes Tue 1:30-4:20-7:20 No Passes Wed 4:20-7:20-10:15 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:25
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri-Mon 1:10-4-7:30-10:10 Tue 1:10-4-7:30
Frozen (G) Fri-Tue 12:45 Wed 3:20 Thu 12:10
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Mon 3:20-6:45-9:45 Tue 3:20-6:45 Wed 6:45-9:45 Thu 2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:30-4:30-8:10 No Passes Tue 12:30-4:30 No Passes Wed 4:30-8:10 No Passes Thu 2:30-6:10-9:50
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12-1:25-3:30-5-7:10-9:20-10:45 No Passes Tue 12-1:25-3:30-5-7:10 No Passes Wed 5-9:20 No Passes Thu 12-3:30-7:10-10:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Mon 12:25-3:50-7:05-10:20 Tue 12:25-3:50-7:05 Wed 3:50-7:05-10:20 Thu 12:20-3:40-7-10:20
Philomena (PG) Fri-Mon 12:25-3:25-6:40-9:30 Tue 12:25-3:25-6:40
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:20-4:10-7-9:55 No Passes Tue 1:20-4:10-7 No Passes Wed 4:10-7-9:55 No Passes Thu 12:40-3:50-6:50-10
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes Wed 3:30-6:55-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:20-6:40-9:40
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 4-8 No Passes Thu 2-6-10:10

Sunridge Spectrum 2555 32nd Street

47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed 11:45-2:55-6:30-9:20 No Passes Thu 11:20-2:05-4:50-7:40-10:25
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Mon 11:50-3:10-7-10:30 Tue 12-3:10-6:55 Wed 1:05-4:15-7:20-10:30 Thu 10:45-1:50-4:55-8:05-11:10
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:25-4:20-7:40-10:35 No Passes Tue 1:30-4:20-7:10 No Passes Wed 1:10-4:20-7:45-10:35 No Passes Thu 11:15-2-4:50-7:35-10:20



5 The best tech gifts of 2013

METRO WORLD NEWS

Nexus 7

Of course you want an iPad Air, but this is the next best thing: an Android device with a sharp screen and high speed that's easy to hold.
$249, amazon.ca

Minecraft Magnet Set

These would be great for a friend's fridge — especially if your friend stays up all night drinking Red Bull and building infinite worlds.
$9.99 US, thinkgeek.com

Bose Quiet Comfort 15

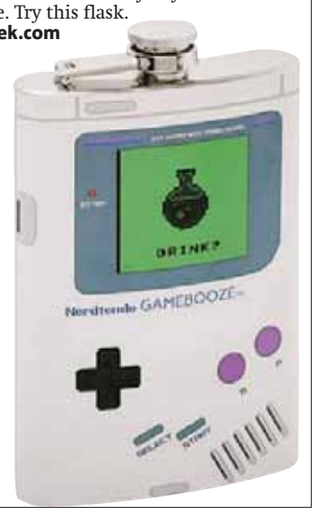
You paid how much for headphones? That's the beauty, see; it's the holidays. Someone should buy these for you. They're noise cancelling and the best there is.
$329.99, amazon.ca

Jawbone Mini Jambox

It looks like a big Lego brick, but in fact it's a small speaker — palm-sized, and one of the best to travel with.
$180, amazon.ca

Nerdendo Gamebooze

Scared of Bowser? Lost in Zelda? Maybe you need some liquid courage. Try this flask.
$19.99 US, thinkgeek.com



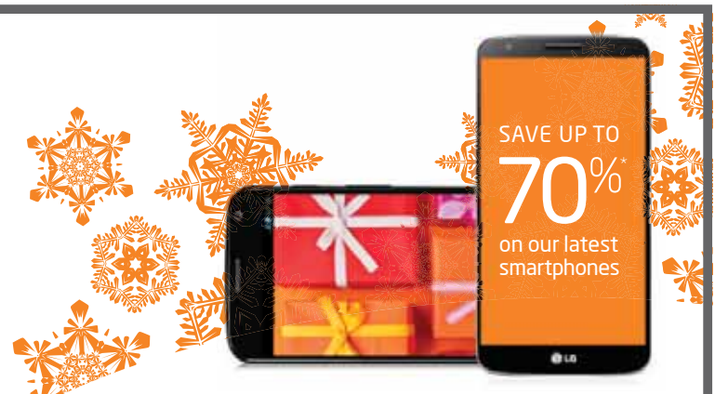
Tbooth wireless

All you have to do is wrap it.

Visit a Tbooth wireless location near you.

tboothwireless.ca

*Limited time offer. Some conditions apply. See in-store for details. Subject to change without notice.



ROGERS Bell fido Virgin mobile

We played the PS4...

... and here are the games to buy this holiday season.

SAM CASTONE
Metro World News

FIFA 14

The soccer classic is back, and it looks just like a match on TV — except you can play it. Nerds will tell you there's a new "engine" called Ignite behind the visuals, but what's important is that the photo-realism translates to the play: Limbs look like moving limbs, allowing for the illusion of complete control. (The crowd in the background appears remarkably alive as well.) Goaaaaaal, indeed.

Negatives: There's no tournament mode, as in other editions.

Killzone: Shadowfall

"Wow, a new Killzone!" people nowhere are saying. The game series, now a Playstation exclusive, has always been just generic enough to get by without becoming a phenomenon. But this version of the shooter offers some surprises (the space war heats up) and epic, Inception-like world-bending that really shows off the PS4's graphics.

Negatives: It still pales in comparison to most other first-person shoot-em-ups.

NBA 2K14

Like FIFA, this is another EA Sports game, which means it's got the same photo-realism — right down to LeBron James' frowny eyebrows. (The company reportedly scanned 80 per cent of the league's faces.) The gameplay is as fluid as ever. The leading b-ball franchise out there, 2K14 ensures you'll never set foot on an actual court.

Negatives: A manager mode, in which you sit at a desk — aiiiirballl.

Assassins Creed IV: Black Flag

Like the other games here, save Killzone, Creed is available on other platforms, so don't buy a PS4 just for this. But the historical adventure, set among pirates in the Caribbean, looks stunning, with water you could dive in, and it really shows off the system's "remote play" feature, which requires the PlayStation Vita — you can start a game on the console and pick it up again on the mobile device.

Negatives: If you already own this, don't buy it again.

What's new?

- The Dualshock 4 controller feels familiar yet more comfortable to hold.
- You can use a PlayStation Vita — the handheld gaming device — to continue games.
- Follow friends' progress— up to 2,000 of them.

Lego Marvel Superheroes

Some people play with Legos to build things. Most people play with Legos to build things and then smash things up. They'll love this new entry in the Lego canon, which finds Iron Man and friends teaming up to basically just destroy stuff, going after some villains. (Everything is made of blocks.) Unlock 130 Marvel characters such as Thor, Wolverine, Spider-Man, the Hulk and Captain America.

Negatives: The game is already available on the Playstation 3 and Xbox 360, where it's basically the same.

Or, consider this

The Xbox One: Is it No. 1?

When the zombies attack, and you need backup, would you rather press a button and wait — or bark orders to activate your team? The new Kinect, which reads your movements and understands voice commands,comes built into the Xbox One, and is more responsive than the previous iteration (as in, it understands you now, as opposed to sucking). That makes games like Dead Rising 3 feel more immersive.

Right now, that's about the only glowing thing we can say about this new system, at least from a gaming perspective. Sure, you can buy Assassins Creed IV, FIFA and some of the same games as on the PS4. But it's more of a multimedia hub, acting as your console, your Netflix, your Blu-Ray player, your DVR and your Internet.

FINAL VERDICT. The PS4 launch titles demonstrate the machine is capable of high-res visuals that look like real life. But with only one exclusive game, don't expect to really see what's possible until the new titles debut next year.

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BOXING WEEK CLEAROUT

Must go by December 28

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2013 Nissan Pathfinder SL
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2009 Toyota Tundra Crew Max LTD
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Kris Kringl review

Need proof that Santa was there?

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Kringl
iPhone/Android
Free

Santa won't come unless kids are asleep, but you can record video proof for them using this Make-A-Wish Canada app that captures the jolly man making preparations within your home.

The other key games this holiday season

Mobile and more.
What's available beyond the big platforms? Racing avians, digital dice and a land made out of paper

SAM CASTONE
Metro World News

Angry Birds Go!

Angry Birds creator Rovio takes a page from the Mario Kart playbook, porting Red, Chuck, Bomb and Bubbles (and their pig nemeses) into a racing game, where you can blast one another using special power-ups. Kids who buy Telepods — physical playsets, found in toy stores — can import their characters as well. It's available for download and it's free, though you can pay to pimp your ride.

Dice +

Trying to bring the board game back, Dice+ does so digitally. The small cube looks like a die but with illuminated numbers instead of dots. Roll it, and it lights up and sends messages — via Bluetooth — to a game on your iPad. So-called powered board games include backgammon, a pirate adventure and the Twister-with-fingers Rumble Stumble. $39.99 US, Dicepl.us

The Elder Scrolls Anthology

Dan Harmon, creator of Community, is a fan. The latest edition sold 20 million copies. And one player named her child Dovahkiin as part of a contest. The role-playing Elder Scrolls series has a devoted following, and if you know a fellow Stormcloak, they'd appreciate this. It's a gorgeously-produced box set with all five games, official add-ons and five physical maps detailing the worlds of Morrowind, Tamriel and Skyrim. PC, $79.99

iPad Arcade Stand

It's the dream of every Silver Spoons fan: Arcade games right in your home. Now it's a reality, if you own an iPad. Plug it into the iCade and the joystick works, via Bluetooth, with classic games like Pac-Man, Centipede, Asteroids and 500 more. And even though it looks small, the controls are full-sized. Quarters and roller rink not included. $100 US, ionaudio.com.

Tearaway

Set in a land made of paper people, paper trees and paper tigers, this adventure, for the handheld PlayStation Vita, channels that classic Daffy Duck cartoon where the artist erases him. You tap the back of the device and your finger appears to burst through the action — or swipe the screen and unfurl a bridge. It's from the creators of Little Big Planet and has that game's all-ages whimsy. $39.99 US

Video game review

Name. The Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds

For. Nintendo 3DS

Rated. Everyone

The glasses-free 3D in this latest Zelda adventure is so incredibly convincing, it's as if there is no screen at all and you're playing a game inside a box, where the pieces can fall deeper inside or fly out past the lid to swipe at your nose. Even the sound seems to carry over a distance. Add to that an effect where Link can turn into a painting and travel along the walls and you have a masterful retelling of a story you'd expect, after 16 sequels, to be all too familiar. **KRIS ABEL**

Go retro: How to play old-school

ANTHONY JOHNSTON
Metro World News

If you have a PC/Mac

Atari.com/arcade

Format: Play classic Atari arcade games with updated graphics and sound.
Plusses: Enjoy all your beloved '70s and '80s classics like Pong, Missile Command, Combat, Lunar Lander, Asteroids, Yars' Revenge, Super Breakout and Centipede.
Minuses: Up-to-date visuals and sounds will leave purists disappointed.
Verdict: Good for a quick five-minute arcade-esque time-killer.

Game-Oldies.com

Format: Free emulator for a whopping 20 retro consoles — all the biggies, from NES to TurboGrafx-16.
Plusses: Plethora of titles (5,697); save option.
Minuses: Clunky website interface that truly mimics your PCs of yesteryear.
Verdict: Not the friendliest to dip into, but the best to bury yourself in hours of retro gaming — and try out some esoteric consoles (who remembers the Neo Geo?).

NESbox.com & SNESbox.com

Format: Free Nintendo Entertainment System & Super Nintendo Entertainment System emulators, built on Adobe Flash technology.
Plusses: Slick, clean interface, oodles of your favorite Nintendo titles, and each has 1,810-plus games. Upload your walkthrough to the server and take part in the rankings, two-player via Internet.
Minuses: Can only be played in your web browser's window.
Verdict: Most user-friendly emulator.

If you have an Android

SuperGNES.com

Format: Emulator at $3.99 that scans your phone to view and play installed ROMs (emulated games).
Plusses: Cheats: Access huge database of Game Genie and Pro Action Replay codes, Mouse: Mouse support for games like Mario Paint, Multi-player: Network multiplayer using WiFi or Bluetooth.
Minuses: Extra work: Go to websites like coolrom.com/roms/snes/ to download ROMs to your device.
Verdict: Nifty emulator for the savvy gamer itching to play games on the commute.

If you have an iPad or iPhone

iEmulators.com

Format: List of emulators for your iPhone/iPad.

Who's up for a game of Battletoads? NES

Plusses: Follow a few weird installation steps, found easily on the website, and turn your phone into a Nintendo. You'll have to download the ROMs yourself (see SuperGNES).
Minuses: Trickery may go against your morals or your inclination not to tinker with your pricey, beloved device; controls difficult for games like Super Mario.
Verdict: Fine-working emulator but controls regrettably awkward on touch-screen.

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Noth-ing wrong with playing the bad guy

The Good Wife. Peter Florrick is no angel, just like the actor's best-known character, Sex and the City's Mr. Big

Chris Noth as cheater Peter Florrick in The Good Wife. HANDOUT

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News

No matter if he's Big from Sex and the City or Peter Florrick on The Good Wife, Chris Noth has made a career out of playing lovable cheaters.

"There's a misconception about all my characters. They're imperfect people, and they're conflicted, and they're complicated like everybody," Noth said, defending his on-screen personas. "And so I find the generalization that they're bad to be a little ridiculous."

And Peter Florrick is the baddest of the bad. On The Good Wife, the former state attorney used the state budget to hire prostitutes and had a sex tape leaked of him. His "good" wife, Alicia Florrick, is forced to testify on his behalf. The debauchery, lies and deceit get even worse as the series progresses, even though Alicia seems to trust her disgraced husband more and more — which is exactly what she shouldn't be doing, Noth explained.

"It's possible he could get into trouble again, I just don't know where they want to take it," Noth continued. "Do they want to make it about a marriage that has pulled itself out of the depths of misery and gotten it back together? Is that interesting? I don't know; it's up to them. I think it's more fun, too — as we used to say in speech classes and exercise, 'I'm glad to be bad.'"

Despite the intricacies of Peter, Noth said he's not the character he likes to portray the most. In fact, he refuses to pick favorites.

"I can think of roles in the theatre that I love, but once I put them to bed there are no favorites," he admitted. "They are all great characters and I hope that somehow they give some semblance of satisfaction to people who watch it. But I don't think about them or compare them or — at all. It's much more simplistic than that."

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Selleck and his super 'stache leading the Blue Bloods clan

Iconic. Despite the Three Men and a Baby star wanting a fresh, 'stache-less start, the network asked him to keep his famous lip hair for his role as NYC police commissioner

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News

In order to play a realistic member of the New York Police Department, you have to do your research. Just ask Tom Selleck, who plays NYPD police commissioner Frank Reagan in Blue Bloods.

"I said, I'm not sure where there is regulations for the New York City police commissioner to have a moustache. It would be nice to do a character kind of with a fresh start. He (executive producer Leonard Goldberg) said that's a good idea," Selleck recalled. Alas, there are some iconic things that just can't be done away with, even if duty calls. "Now I said, I just have a hunch you better run it by the network before you get real enthused about that," Selleck continued. "It lasted about half a day, that idea. And they said, No, we want the moustache.'"

It can't be helped that the moustache makes the man. Selleck portrays the head of the Reagan clan with such authority that it is clear that the other stars respect and fear him even if he isn't their own father.

"The word icon, a lot of times people use it in where it doesn't always apply, but I think with Tom it certainly applies, I think he is definitely an icon," Donnie Wahlberg, who portrays son and detective first grade Danny Reagan, said. "And he is a larger-than-life figure.

"He is very professional and he's always willing to share that experience in those moments,"

Choice

"It lasted about half a day, that idea. And they said, 'No, we want the mustache.'"

Actor Tom Selleck
On the network's decision on whether to keep his famous moustache or not

added Bridget Moynahan, who plays daughter and assistant district attorney Erin Reagan. "It's always very nice because he also spends a lot of time with the kids in helping them with acting and helping them recognize the quiet moments, or doing their responses."

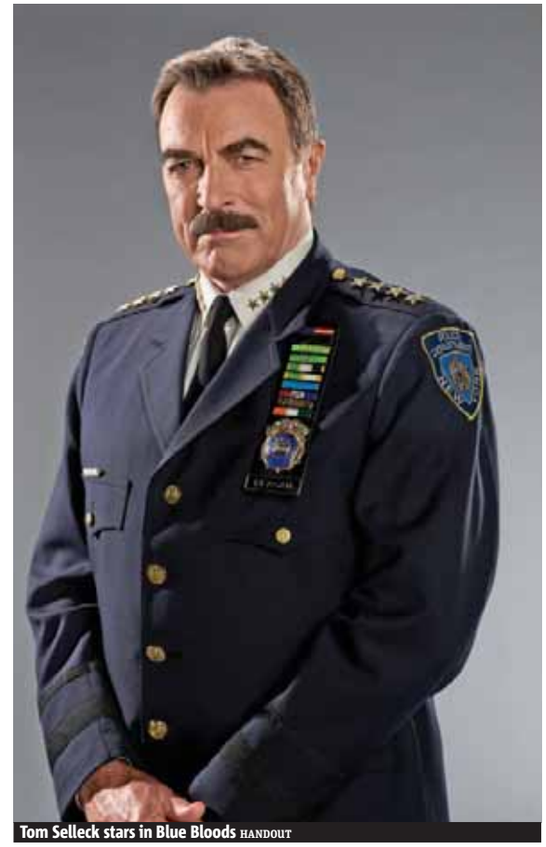
It's clear the cast has bonded as a family unit. The actors admitted that part of what helps is the extended dinner scenes that are included in each episode. Unlike many shows with a large number of main characters, at least once every eight days the main stars gather together to film one scene. During the four to six hour shoot, the cast catches up on each other's personal lives.

"I really look forward other than the eating to family dinner because I'm going to catch up with my friends, and I think that sense really helps us," Selleck explained.

It's also taught them valuable lessons about how to create a fake family dinner.

"There was a fish recently, you can't do fish," Moynahan explained. "Fish will smell after a while, and it doesn't smell good. I had to eat a Mu Shu pork calzone one time because it was written in the script. I had to keep eating and commenting on it, and that was not good and I will never do that again."

Wahlberg pointed out that Moynahan doesn't actually eat the food. "Bridget very cleverly moves her food around and so the Bridget for example will look like this — she is slicing the meat, but she never eats it," he explained.



Tom Selleck stars in Blue Bloods HANDOUT

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Turning Negativity into musical positivity

Deer Tick's new album. Front man channeled the frustration of his drug habit and the built-up anger over his father's jail sentence into something good

John McCauley performing with his band, Deer Tick, at the Newport Folk Festival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Singer John McCauley of the rock band Deer Tick figured out how to turn his pain into something positive.

McCauley used the Rhode Island-based band's latest album, Negativity, to unleash some of the frustrations and struggles he has had over the past couple of years into a polished and refined sound that mixes country, folk and rock.

His father was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to federal charges of conspiracy and tax fraud and McCauley was struggling with substance abuse. The album includes several references to McCauley's experiences, as painful as they were. "People take comfort in knowing either A, somebody is going through something similar to what they went through or B, somebody's got it worse off than they do," McCauley said during a recent interview. "I am guilty of both of those things when I listen to music."

Now he says he's cleaned up and feeling excited about the future. McCauley and singer Vanessa Carlton are planning a wedding at the end of December, just before the band is scheduled to start a European tour.

The couple recorded a duet on the album, called In Our Time, which McCauley wrote about his own parents.

"We met through Patrick Hallahan, from My Morning Jacket. He introduced us after I went on Vanessa's Twitter and said, 'Hey, VC let's get a beer,"' McCauley said. "I had just figured out how to use Twitter so I was really proud of myself."

The band recorded the album with producer Steve Berlin, from Los Lobos, who pushed the band to focus on instrumentation and added new layers to their songs without losing the rawness that the group is known for, McCauley said.

"This is the first record that we've put out where we actually rehearsed every single song on the record, so we're actually kind of proud of this one," McCauley said. "We go out on stage every night, just a little bit more aware of our surroundings and what our equipment does than we have in the past."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shoot those carolers

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Tired of all the usual Christmas tunage? Let me offer you some alternatives.

Rob Ford Got Run Over by a Reindeer/ Eh440

Not only does this song offer a new twist on the Elmo & Patsy classic, but it also manages to work in a rhyme using "Councilor Denzil Minnan-Wong."

Why Didn't You Put Up the Xmas Tree?/ CCF Devastators

A Ramones-like decorating complaint from this Calgary group who claim that the video was directed by Tommy Douglas.

Let It Snow!/ Captain Picard

What if you had the time to go through all the Star Trek: TNG episodes and piece together Jean-Luc in such a way that he appears to recite a Christmas song? Make it so.

Music

Beyoncé producer knew of release only minutes before

Beyoncé's new album was so secret, one of its producers only knew of its release 90 minutes before it dropped.

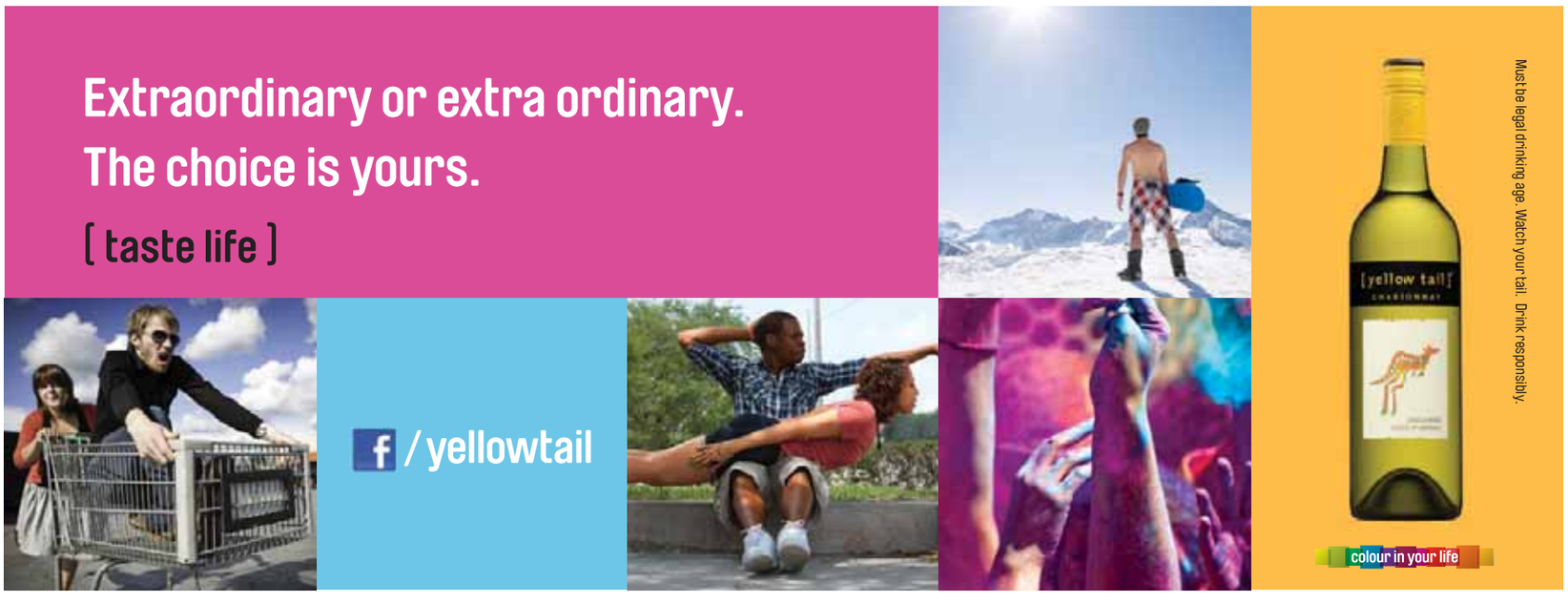
Beyoncé released her self-titled album in surprise form last week. Ryan Tedder produced the single XO, and he learned about the release not long before it went public.

"I knew 90 minutes before it dropped. Ninety minutes. And I said nothing because I love Beyoncé and I don't want her to hate me," Tedder said in an interview Tuesday.

"I heard a rumour and then I didn't say anything," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Producer Ryan Tedder. GETTY IMAGES



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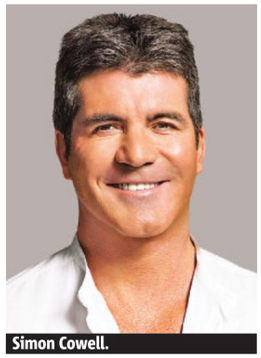
Cowell not worried by Lovato's departure

Simon Cowell confirms that Demi Lovato will definitely not be coming back to The X Factor as a judge, and he insists it's not a shock to him in the slightest.

"I always knew she wasn't coming back because she's touring, so I knew that," he tells E! News.

As for her replacement? Sources say that "there haven't been any conversations about judges next year."



Simon Cowell.

Ryan Gosling.

Gosling driving away from latest relationship

Ryan Gosling and Eva Mendes are reportedly giving their relationship a "time out" after more than two years of dating, according to Radar Online.

"There was a realization before Thanksgiving that they took things way too fast and were rushing toward a marriage that neither of them particularly needed," a source says. "They've decided to take a break to reevaluate their romance."

And to hear the source tell it, it's more Gosling who is worried about how fast they're going, as Mendes "wanted to have his babies."

People from normal childhoods with normal lives don't end up homeless. Dave disagrees.

(Dave, in shelters for 12 years)

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Brad Pitt playing down his milestone birthday

While Brad Pitt has previously seemed at peace with turning 50 this week, his birthday plans — or lack thereof — suggest something else.

"He's not doing anything for it and he said he doesn't want any surprises," a source tells Us Weekly.

"He really doesn't want to talk about his birthday much."

Of course, work is keeping him pretty busy, as Pitt is currently filming his Second World War drama, Fury, in London while Angelina Jolie is in Australia working on Unbroken.

Pitt will reportedly join her there this weekend, though, so there will be some sort of celebration of his milestone birthday.

"Brad said he's going to celebrate his birthday this weekend in Australia," the source says. "That's going to be the only thing he does."

Miley Cyrus' tongue a nervous tick

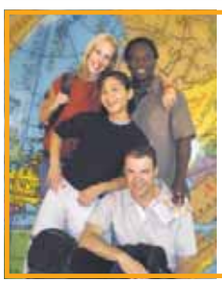
The truth behind Miley Cyrus' penchant for sticking out her tongue in photos is that she's actually just really nervous, she insists in an interview with Barbara Walters.

"I get embarrassed to take pictures. That's actually the truth," she says.

"I'm so embarrassed, because people are taking pictures of me, and I just don't know how to — I don't know how to smile, and just be awkward, so I stick my tongue out, because I don't know what else to do."

Cyrus first made her trademark tongue pose as part of her Blurred Lines song with Robin Thicke.

Miley Cyrus. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



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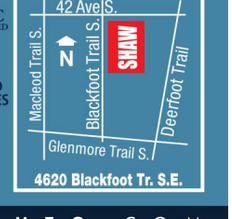

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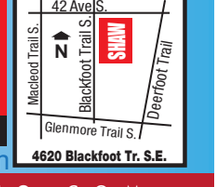

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Liquid Assets

Holiday cheer sipper

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Last week was all about white wines for your holiday meal, so it's only right I suggest the right reds.

If you're convinced that only whites go with white meats, get over yourself. Reds can be an excellent match with poultry, especially when it's served old-school with plenty of savoury fixings and veg.

He may not look it, but Tom turkey doesn't carry a lot of fat, which means you're going to want to avoid any red that is tannin heavy. Tannins love fat, so your bird will get lambasted if it meets a big-boned red like a New World Cabernet Sauvignon or a hip, Italian Aglianico (choose them if you're doing roast beef).

Take the bright, fruity path. Think California Zinfandel, New Zealand Pinot Noir, a French Beaujolais Cru or, my fave, an Italian made with the Barbera grape. From Piemonte, Bersano's 2011 Costalunga Barbera d'Asti ($11.95 - $14.99) is a glass full of strawberry, cherry, light earth and subtle spice that makes merry with turkey and all its eclectic Christmas plate mates.

Happy holidays! **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

A dash of sweet steals the Christmas spotlight

Roasted Chicken With Asian Glaze and Fruit Sauce. Tired of the same old turkey year after year? Be brave and try something new

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

This is a holiday entrée with a delicious fruit sauce instead of traditional gravy.

You can use this over any poultry such as Cornish hen or even turkey.

If you're using turkey, multiply the glaze and sauce by three.

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Place chicken in roasting pan.

2. Glaze: In bowl, mix garlic, ginger, honey, wine, chili flakes, margarine, coriander, salt and pepper to taste and stock; set half aside for sauce. Brush some of the remaining mixture over chicken. Bake for 60 minutes or until meat thermometer registers 160 F, basting with more honey mixture every 15 minutes.

3. Cut chicken into 4 quarters; place on serving dish and keep warm.

4. Sauce: Pour reserved honey mixture into small saucepan; stir in cornstarch, mixing well. Add chicken stock along with dates and apricots; cook over medium heat, stirring, for 2 minutes or until thickened. Pour over chicken. Remove skin before eating.

ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT COOKING (MCM BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Ingredients

- 1 whole chicken

Glaze

- 1 tsp crushed garlic
- 1 tsp minced ginger root (or 1/4 tsp ground ginger)
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup sweet dessert wine (plum wine, Mirin or sweet Sake)
- Pinch chili flakes
- 1 tbsp margarine, melted
- Pinch dried coriander and/or cumin
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup chicken stock

Sauce

- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 1/4 cup chopped dates
- 1/4 cup chopped dried apricots

This recipe serves four. MARK SHAPIRO, FROM ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT COOKING (MCM BOOKS)

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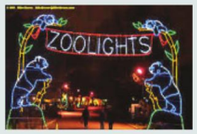


Celebrate with Zoolights

Not even a flood of epic proportions could stop the Calgary Zoo from hosting the annual Zoolights. This year's Zoolights will be the largest light display in Western Canada and will be open for the entire month of December. 2013's display features an extra 250,000 bulbs and the zoo staff have hinted at a few new additions, including a moving light show. Zoolights will run every night except Christmas Day. Admission is $12.

Jessica Stockholder

Explore the work of artist Jessica Stockholder, who is known for giving new life to ordinary objects. Stockholder is a talented sculptor and installation artist who uses a vivid colour palette and materials like leather, fan blades, tools, mesh and plastic. Stockholder's work has been shown in New York's Madison Square Garden and the prestigious Venice Biennale. You can view her work at the Barbara Edwards Contemporary Gallery (located at 1114 11th Street SW) from Tuesday to Saturday. 587-349-2014.

TACO OR NO TACO

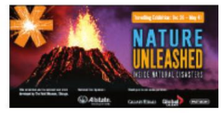
On Dec. 23, you are invited the Royal Canadian Legion #1 for a savoury smackdown with the boys from TACO OR NO TACO. You are in for a wild night of tacos, beer, bourbon, hip hop and live luchador wrestling that will be nothing short of legendary. There will be four dynamite rounds full of body slams, death drops and some serious trash talking. Doors are at 8 p.m. and the show starts at 9. Tickets are available at the Ox & Angela, Taste Restaurant, UNA and Vinearts.

Christmas In Inglewood

Monday and Christmas Eve are your last chances to check out Christmas in Inglewood. There are over 80 shops and restaurants in Inglewood that would like to help bring you some holiday cheer in one of Calgary's most charming communities. There will be lights, trees, Christmas carolers and lots of great spots to get last minute presents. The fun all takes place on 9th Ave SE from 10th to 14th Street. Merry Christmas! calgaryculture.com.

Leftover Turkey Sandwich

The Blues Can hosts Tim Williams' Leftover Turkey Sandwich musical on Boxing Day. Williams has played with an interesting group of musicians including Taj Mahal, B.B King, Buddy Guy and Junior Wells. This show will feature a fun variety of Americana music that touches on blues, ragtime, country, Mexicali and the ukulele sounds of Hawaii. The Blues Can sits on the main drag in Inglewood (1429 9th Avenue) and the show begins at 8:30 p.m. thebluescan.com.



Nature Unleashed

The Telus Spark Science Centre always brings great exhibitions to Calgary. On Boxing Day, the Nature Unleashed exhibit will showcase an impressive display of information on earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes and tornadoes. The exhibit will also demonstrate how scientists are making great progress in determining how to forecast natural disasters. To learn more call Telus Spark Science Centre. 403-817-6800.

On the road

Making commuting more comfortable

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

It's estimated we spend nearly a month each year in our cars, SUVs and trucks, driving to work, running errands or driving the kids to and from events. Why not make someone's commute a little more comfortable this year with a gadget for the vehicle.

Garmin Head-up Display — $149.99

Garmin Head-up Display — $149.99

This unique GPS system takes navigation information from your smartphone and beams it onto the windshield. Get turn-by-turn directions, current speed, and estimated time of arrival without looking away from the road. The heads-up display automatically adjusts to ambient light so you can always see the information whether it's bright and sunny or dark.

Swift Hitch — $219

A camera backup system designed to help hitch a trailer or camper without the need of a second person. The magnetic mounted camera wirelessly sends video to a handheld monitor guiding you into the proper position. Dark outside? No problem. Swift Hitch has a night vision mode.

Pioneer AppRadio 3 — $499.99

The ultimate in-car entertainment system. Stream music from your phone, watch DVDs, or take advantage of dozens of popular apps on this beautiful seven-inch capacitive multi-touch screen. If you get lost you can always open one of six navigation apps to help you find your way. Knock $100 off the price tag if you can live without the DVD option.

Jabra Motion — $129.95

The safe way to take phone calls behind the wheel. This high-end Bluetooth headset adapts to the environment you are in, ensuring crystal-clear audio. The Jabra motion fits any ear, is easy to set up, and lets you take control to make calls using voice commands. It's also smart enough to go to sleep when not in use so the battery doesn't continually drain.

SpareOne Plus Emergency Phone — $79.99

The perfect gift to ensure your loved ones are safe on the road. This one-of-a-kind cellphone is powered by a single AA battery, which provides up to 10 hours of talk time. The phone comes in a waterproof bag (which you can talk through), has a panic siren and a built-in LED Torchlight that can signal for help if you become stranded on the road. This phone can keep its charge for up to 15 years if unused, even in extreme temperatures.

Speecup — $129.95

Disguised as a travel mug, this Bluetooth speaker fits into the cup holder of your vehicle. Gesture controls let you answer phone calls or skip music tracks without touching the device. Plus you have access to Apple's Siri or Samsung's S Voice on select phones.

Hipkey — $89.95

Never lose your car keys again. Attach this device to your key chain to allow tracking directly from your smartphone. You can also set an alarm to alert you if you forget your keys or if someone tries to take them. This device can be attached to electronics such as tablets, smartphones or even children.

Secure Remote Bluetooth Remote Garage Door Opener — $149

No more copying keys, memorizing codes or fiddling with traditional garage door openers. With this device you can open your garage door using your smartphone. Works with iOS, Android and BlackBerry devices.

SiriusXM Lynx — $299

If you have never had satellite radio you have no idea what you are missing. It's like having hundreds of mixed tapes at your disposable. The Lynx lets you pause, rewind and replay live radio, and will alert you when your favourite radio shows are playing. This receiver can be used in the car or at home with optional docking accessories.

Pioneer AppRadio 3 — $499.99, clockwise, from left, Swift Hitch — $219, Speecup — $129.95, Hipkey — $89.95, Jabra Motion — $129.95, SpareOne Plus Emergency Phone — $79.99, and SiriusXM Lynx — $299.

Holiday gift guide

5 shopping days left

For more holiday gift ideas, please visit holiday.metronews.ca

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Nikon Df — $3,099.95

Fujifilm X20 — $549

Sony Alpha 7 — $1,699.99 (body only)

Bigshot DIY Digital Camera — $89

Canon EOS 70D — $1,299.99

Festive focus

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

While many smartphones take impressive photos, any photographer will tell you they have yet to match the quality of standalone cameras. Here are a few of the best devices to truly impress the shutterbug on your list

Nikon Df — $3,099.95

A modern camera in a retro-style body. While many cameras feature touch-screen controls and menus, the 16.2-megapixel Nikon Df brings back classic mechanical dials to change settings, creating a simple approach to photography. If you are feeling techie you can use the optional wireless adapter to browse the camera's memory card on your smartphone or tablet.

Sony Alpha 7 — $1,699.99 (body only)

The world's smallest and lightest interchangeable lens full-frame camera. This 24.3-megapixel camera is full of features, including lightning quick autofocus, a tillable three-inch OLED display, and the ability to record uncompressed 1080p HD video.

Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS30 — $399.99

A lot of features at a relatively low price point. This compact camera has a 20X zoom, three-inch touchscreen along with GPS capabilities so you always know where you took your pictures. If you have an Android phone you can control your camera remotely via Wi-Fi or automatically upload your pictures to social media.

Canon PowerShot SX280 HS — $269.95

A point-and-shoot with modes for every photographer, Canon's Smart Auto mode recognizes 58 predefined shooting situations so pictures turn out in even the strangest lighting conditions. This compact camera also features a whopping 20X optical zoom, which is impressive despite its small size.

Fujifilm X20 — $549

The camera that's ready when you are. The 12-megapixel Fujifilm X20 starts up in 0.5 seconds, auto focuses in 0.06 seconds and can snap photos in 0.01 seconds. This entry-level premium camera has a large optical viewfinder, the ability to shoot in RAW mode and a hot shoe for those who prefer an external flash.

Canon EOS 70D — $1,299.99

A full-feature DSLR with plenty of controls. Advanced users will love the in-depth options while beginners can take advantage of the simplistic basic mode. Those with a creative mind will love the Live View filter mode, which adds dream-like, miniature and colour filters in real time so you know what your photo will look like before you snap the shutter.

Pentax WG-10 — $199

The ultimate camera for the adventurer in your life. This 14-megapixel camera is crushproof, shockproof and waterproof. What really sets this camera apart is the digital microscope mode, which allows for magnified pictures of the smallest subjects — from insects to veins on leaves.

Bonzart Ampel — $180

It may look like a toy, but the Bonzart Ampel camera is anything but. This dual-lens camera is designed to shoot tilt-shift photos, a cool effect that makes everything look like miniature scale models. A unique gift for that creative person on your shopping list.

Bigshot DIY Digital Camera — $89

A camera for those who are curious about learning, the Bigshot camera comes in pieces, allowing the user to not only put it together, but learn about how cameras work in the process. At three megapixels, this camera may not take professional quality pictures, but the built-in lens wheel that toggles between regular, panoramic and 3D photos will ensure hours of fun for youngsters.

Bonzart Ampel — $180, clockwise, from left, Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS30 — $399.99, Canon PowerShot SX280 HS — $269.95, and Pentax WG-10 — $199.

Dashing through the snow

The newest addition and the sporting pinnacle of the Jaguar XJ lineup is the XJR. CONTRIBUTED

The Range Rover Supercharged. CONTRIBUTED

The Ford Fiesta ST. CONTRIBUTED

The Lincoln MKZ. CONTRIBUTED

Santa will understand if you put one of these cool sleighs on your Christmas wish list. Whether your budget is naughty or nice, here are some great autos for dashing through the snow.

JAGUAR XJR ($119,990)

The newest addition and the sporting pinnacle of the Jaguar XJ lineup is the XJR. New exterior styling has given this stealthy sleigh an assertive appearance. A front splitter, special hood louvres and quad tailpipes also add to the car's sporty look.

This new generation XJR offers an exhilarating ride combined with the luxury and refinement associated with the brand. Heart-pounding performance is provided by a 5.0-litre supercharged V8 engine that boasts 550 horsepower.

RANGE ROVER ($115,000)

The Range Rover Supercharged offers a level of luxury that gets the royal nod. Underneath the sumptuous interior lining of leather is the solid protection of a tank. The Rover is well-known to be a thirsty beast. So with a goal to make it more fuel efficient, it was put on a diet and is now 317 kilograms (700 pounds) lighter than the previous model. As a result, the new aluminum unibody offers an improvement in fuel economy — 16.6/10.6 L/100 km (city/highway). It also has Transmission Idle Control, which disengages 70 per cent of the drive power when idling.

No matter what terrain you are tackling, the Rover automatically knows the kind of traction you need — whether you are climbing rocks or descending on sand.

It is also practically amphibious. This Rover can dog-paddle you through a flood up to about 850 millimetres (33 inches).

The supercharged 5.0-litre V8 engine offers 510 horsepower, but with such road-silencing features and finishes, and an amazingly smooth ride, you will need to keep one eye on the speedometer.

LINCOLN MKZ ($39,000)

Sit in the new MKZ and for a second or two you will wonder how to put this beauty into gear. Look up on the dashboard and you will see it has an automatic push-button shift. Although it's strange at first to shift into gear with your finger, the design idea frees up console space.

Select the operating mode — sport, normal or comfort — that suits your preference. Whether you are driving on dry pavement, snow, mud or gravel, you will feel confident knowing it is equipped with all-wheel drive (optional with the 2.0-litre EcoBoost and 3.7-litre V6 engines).

FORD FIESTA ST ($24,999)

Looks are deceiving with the Ford Fiesta ST. This hot hatchback might look small, but it packs a whopping punch for its size with a 1.6-litre EcoBoost engine producing 197 horsepower, about 20 per cent more than the previous model. You can accelerate from zero to 100 km/h in less than seven seconds.

The six-speed manual transmission makes it super-fun to drive. The steering is direct and responsive. Plus, the suspension has been modified for a quicker, overall steering ratio.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The holiday season is a busy time for engagements as people get imaginative and romantic with their proposals. ALTAFULLA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Creating that fairy tale touch to the holidays

HEATHER BEAUMONT
For Metro

Four years ago, Craig Roy of It's All About You Event Planning learned that the rules of engagement begin with an imaginative marriage proposal.

A client decided to propose over the holidays and Roy and his special events team in Halifax suggested proposal options.

"The one that our client loved was going for a walk with their dogs and returning home to play outside in the snow," Roy wrote in an email. "They built a snowman together, including the props — carrot, scarf, twigs and mittens. Once the snowman was built, our client dug out a piece of the snowman's belly and placed the open ring box in the hole for his girlfriend to find."

Although clients often bring their own ideas, Roy and other marriage proposal planners pitch ideas.

"We ask consultation questions of our clients to get to know them and their ideas," Roy wrote. "The type of proposal really depends on their personality and who they are."

For Socrates Reppas of Marquis Jewellers in Toronto, the holiday season is a busy time of year.

"I have five engagement rings ready for pickup," he said. "They order custom diamond engagement rings from $1,600 to $150,000 to propose over the holidays. A lot of them like to propose on New Year's Eve."

Reppas' face brightens as he recounts the marriage proposals of love-struck men who enter his store to buy engagement rings. "They tell me what they're going to do when they buy the ring."

One man arranged to have his girlfriend drive by herself to his aunt's house in Niagara Falls. She arrived at sunset and turned into a long, tree-lined driveway lit up with Christmas tree lights. At the end of a driveway of about 100 metres, the path curved to reveal the house decorated with a big sign that read, "Will You Marry Me?"

"Some clients want to go above and beyond for their fiancée," Roy wrote. "Some want the fairy tale story to tell their friends and family about how they got engaged."

Reppas believes there is much more to holiday proposals.

"They propose marriage over the holidays and on New Year's Eve to be romantic."

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Guilt-free Tiramisu. NEWS CANADA

Recipe. Guilt-free Tiramisu

Delight your guests this holiday season with this delicious yet surprisingly guilt-free tiramisu.

Ingredients:
- ½ cup (125 ml) warm, strong coffee
- 9 packets or 4½ tsp Pure Via Turbinado Raw Cane sugar and stevia blend sweetener
- ½ cup (125 ml) part-skim ricotta cheese
- ½ cup (125 ml) prepared light whipped topping
- ½ tsp (2 ml) vanilla extract
- 8 crisp ladyfingers
- 1 tsp (5 ml) unsweetened cocoa

Instructions:

1 Combine coffee and one packet of Pure Via Turbinado. Stir until the sweetener is dissolved. Let coffee cool until lukewarm.

2 Meanwhile, whisk together ricotta cheese, whipped topping, the additional Pure Via Turbinado sweetener and vanilla. Refrigerate until ready to use.

3 Place coffee in shallow bowl. Dip four of the ladyfingers into coffee and let stand about five seconds.

4 Remove and place two ladyfingers side by side on a plate for each tiramisu. Spread each tiramisu with ¼ of the ricotta mixture. Sprinkle each with ¼ teaspoon (1 ml) of the cocoa. Repeat dipping and layering. Discard any remaining coffee.

5 Refrigerate, covered with plastic wrap, at least two and up to eight hours before serving. Makes two servings.

NEWS CANADA

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Gingerbread Pie. NEWS CANADA

Updated tradition. Gingerbread Pie

Gingerbread is an iconic holiday treat enjoyed all over the world. So why not update this favourite tradition with a beautiful gingerbread pie? Ingredients like molasses, brown sugar and nutmeg deliver festive flavours in every bite, and cute pastry gingerbread men add a whimsical and stylish final touch.

Ingredients:
- 2 Tenderflake frozen deep dish pie shells, defrosted
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- ¾ cup (150 ml) unsalted butter
- ¾ cup (150 ml) brown sugar
- ¾ cup (150 ml) whipping cream
- ¼ cup (60 ml) molasses
- 3 egg yolks
- ¼ cup (60 ml) cornstarch
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ginger
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) nutmeg
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) cloves
- ½ tsp (2 ml) salt
- 1¼ cup (300 ml) milk
- ½ cup (125 ml) whipped topping
- White icing

Instructions:

1 Preheat oven to 375 F (190 C).

2 Bake one pie shell according to package directions. Remove the second pie shell from the foil pan and place on a lightly floured work surface. Using a two-inch (five-centimetre) gingerbread man-shaped cookie cutter, cut eight to 10 pieces and place on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Brush lightly with egg and bake for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from the oven and cool.

3 Heat butter and brown sugar in a small saucepan over medium heat, stirring occasionally until bubbly. Whisk in cream and molasses and stir until it begins to simmer.

4 Whisk together egg yolks, cornstarch, spices and salt in a small bowl. Slowly add a small amount of the hot mixture into the egg mixture, stirring constantly. Add the egg mixture back into the hot cream mixture and continue to stir over medium heat until thickened and just starting to boil.

5 Pour the filling into the baked pie shell. Cover the surface with plastic wrap directly on the filling and chill until set, at least four hours.

6 Decorate the gingerbread man pastry shapes with icing. Arrange shapes on top with whipped topping just before serving.

NEWS CANADA

Your little angels

Heart Sweater, $24 available at Joe Fresh stores, joefresh.com.

Genuine Kids From OshKosh Tutu Skirt In Pink, $22, available at Target stores, target.ca.

Toddler Girls Earmuffs, $16.95, available at the Gap and babyGap stores, gapcanada.ca.

Purple Blouse With Hearts, $12.99, available at Marshalls stores, marshallscanada.ca.

Navy dress, $19, available at Joe Fresh stores, joefresh.com.

Socks, $9.95, available at La Vie en Rose stores, lavieenrose.com.

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Spice up the season with these scents for him

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

Fresh, spicy and sexy scents for the men in your life.

Banana Republic Wildblue Noir is an after 5 p.m. aromatic woody scent of aquatic, spicy, musk, leather and dark chocolate notes. $60 at Banana Republic.

Bottega Veneta Pour Homme features a fresh, spicy fragrance that blends bergamot, pimento, balsam and patchouli. $80 at Holt Renfrew.

Boucheron pour Homme offers a crisp, citrus and wood scent of green basil, ylang-ylang, vetiver and sandalwood. $125 at Hudson's Bay.

Clean White Woods has a modern, clean, soapy, yet warm, woody fragrance she can wear, too. From $39 at Sephora.

Givenchy Gentlemen Only features an elegant, fresh, yet sensual blend of citrus, spice, woods and incense. From $67 at Hudson's Bay and Sephora.

Gucci Made to Measure Pour Homme is a luxurious oriental spicy fragrance of floral, fruity, spicy, and warm leather and amber notes. From $80 at Sephora.

L'Occitane En Provence Cèdre & Oranger offers a cool, zesty scent of citrus, cedar, musk and cedarwood. $75 at L'Occitane boutiques and loccitane.ca

Le Labo Vetiver 46 is an outdoorsy fresh scent of crisp vetiver with smoky, spicy undertones. From $170. See lelabofragrances.com for retailers.

Ralph Lauren Polo Red is a revved-up composition of zingy citrus, spice, amber and woods. From $75 at department stores and pharmacies.

Prada Luna Rossa Limited Edition offers an intensely fresh aromatic scent with spicy, amber and lavender notes. $88 at Holt Renfrew.

Yves Saint Laurent Nuit de L'Homme Collector Edition is an opulent, seductive scent of citrus, warm spice and woods in a matte black flacon. $96 at Hudson's Bay.

Prada Luna Rossa Limited Edition, clockwise, from bottom, Ralph Lauren Polo Red, Bottega Veneta Pour Homme, Givenchy Gentlemen Only, Gucci Made to Measure Pour Homme, L'Occitane En Provence Cèdre & Oranger, Banana Republic Wildblue Noir, Le Labo Vetiver 46, Clean White Woods, and Yves Saint Laurent Nuit de L'Homme Collector Edition.

Recipe. Turkey and Brie Puff Pastry Bites

Using a butter puff pastry is the host or hostess's best friend. Try this delectable nibble for your next party and your guests will be coming back for more.

Ingredients:

- ½ PC Butter Puff Pastry, thawed but still cold
- 5 ounces (150 grams) leftover roast turkey breast, finely diced
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) mayonnaise
- 1 package (200 grams) PC Double Cream Brie, rind removed and cheese cut into 24 equal pieces
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey
- 24 fresh parsley leaves

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 425 F (220 C).
2. Place puff pastry on work surface. Roll pastry out in one direction to form a rectangle; cut into 24 equal pieces. Press each piece into the cups of a 24-cup mini muffin pan, allowing some overhang. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. In a small bowl, stir together turkey and mayonnaise. Remove muffin pan from freezer; divide turkey mixture among the cups. Top each with a piece of Brie, pressing down slightly.
4. Bake in centre of oven for 20 to 22 minutes or until pastry is golden on bottom and cheese is melted and starting to brown.
5. Meanwhile, in small bowl, stir together Dijon and honey. Transfer pastry bites to a long platter; drizzle Dijon mixture over top and garnish with parsley leaves. Makes 24 servings.

NEWS CANADA

Turkey and Brie Puff Pastry Bites. NEWS CANADA

Superstar Eggnog Tarts. NEWS CANADA

Holiday dessert recipe. Superstar Eggnog Tarts

Creating an impressive holiday dessert table doesn't have to take hours in the kitchen. You can bake with style using easy-to-make recipes that both look beautiful and taste great. These cute Superstar Eggnog Tarts are perfect for any festive function.

Ingredients:

- 2 packages Tenderflake tart shells
- ¼ cup (60 ml) sugar
- 1 egg
- ⅓ cup (80 ml) evaporated milk
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) water
- 2 tsp (10 ml) amber or light rum
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) salt
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) nutmeg
- Pinch of cinnamon

Frosting:

- ¾ cup (175 ml) white icing
- ½ tsp (1 ml) nutmeg
- 1½ cups (375 ml) whipped topping

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C).
2. Arrange one package of tart shells on a baking sheet. Using an electric beater, beat together the sugar and eggs until light and fluffy. Stir in evaporated milk, water, rum, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon. Pour into the tart shells and bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until crust is golden and filling is set. Remove from the oven and cool.
3. Remove the remaining tart shells from the foil tins. Transfer to a lightly floured work surface and press to flatten. Using a 1½- to two-inch (3½- to five-centimetre) star-shaped cutter, cut a star from each piece of pastry. Place on a parchment paper lined baking sheet and bake for eight minutes or until nicely browned. Remove from the oven and cool completely.
4. Mix icing and nutmeg together and place in a small piping bag. Pipe a thin line of icing around the edges of each star.
5. Top each tart with 2 tbsp (30 ml) of whipped topping and garnish with a star.

NEWS CANADA

Send the gift of money from wherever you are

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Sport these winning choices

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Surprise the athlete in your life with some high-tech gadgets this holiday. Whether they are training, or they simply like to get out and be active, these devices are sure to win them over.

JayBird BlueBuds X — $169.95

These sweat-proof Bluetooth headphones are ideal for athletes. Among the smallest Bluetooth buds available, these beauties hug your ears to ensure they don't fall out during physical activity. Not only do they sound good, they will also last eight hours on a single charge.

Oakley Airwave 1.5 — $649, below, and JayBird BlueBuds X — $169.95, right.

ZBoard — $649 and up

Turn some heads on your next morning commute. The ZBoard electronic skateboard can travel at speeds of up to 24 kilometres per hour. Navigation is easy. Simply lean forward to accelerate or backwards to brake. A single charge will take you eight kilometres. Helmet required.

ZBoard — $649 and up, above, and GoPro Hero3+ — $399, above left.

Withings Smart Body Scale — $149.95

Track your fitness goals with this wireless scale. Withings Smart Body Scale tracks your body weight, fat composition, heart rate and the air quality in your home, then beams the results directly to your smartphone. Results can be tracked for up to eight users. It may come in handy after all those holiday dinners.

GoPro Hero3+ — $399

The smallest, lightest GoPro yet. This rugged device can withstand extreme conditions while recording high-definition and 4K video. The latest model boasts a number of new features including a better battery, improved audio and low-light mode. Additional accessories let you connect this camera to surfboards, mountain bikes, helmets and more. The perfect gift for adrenalin junkies.

Smart ebike — $3,240 and up

From the makers of the Smart Car, this premium electric bike has a motor that assists with pedalling, helping you take on headwinds and steep hills. A digital display on the handlebars lets you monitor everything from battery life to average speed. The lithium-ion battery recharges as you pedal, or you can plug it into a normal wall socket. Only consider buying this if you have deep pockets!

Oakley Airwave 1.5 — $649

Snow goggles with some serious tech. The Oakley Airwave 1.5 has a small heads-up display within your field of vision to show your speed, altitude, and even your jump analytics. There is also navigation, buddy tracking, music and the ability to view texts from your smartphone. Pricey, but the ultimate gift for that avid skier in your life.

TomTom Multi-Sport GPS Watch — $199 and up

So much more than just a watch. These nifty devices track time, distance, and pace for indoor and outdoor runners. Cyclists can glance at stats and swimmers can track their metrics in the pool. Shell out an additional $50 and you can get a Bluetooth heart monitor that tracks the intensity of your workout.

Bushnell Tour V3 Laser Rangefinder — $369.99

Always know the right distance to the pin on the golf course. This rangefinder can lock onto the flag from 900 metres away with accuracy of one metre, helping golfers determine which club should be used and how much power they need to put behind the shot. Five-time magnification gives golfers a closer look at the green. Legal for tournament play.

Polar Loop — $109.95

This lightweight, waterproof bracelet tracks your daily activities, monitors exercise levels, gives motivational feedback and even tracks your sleep patterns. If you want even more detailed data, purchase the optional heart rate monitor. Works with iOS devices and coming soon to Android.

Smart ebike — $3,240 and up, clockwise, from below, Bushnell Tour V3 Laser Rangefinder — $369.99, Polar Loop — $109.95, and TomTom Multi-Sport GPS Watch — $199 and up.

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CFL

Stubler to patrol sidelines for Stampeders

The Calgary Stampeders hired veteran Rich Stubler as their new defensive co-ordinator Thursday.

Stubler replaces Rick Campbell, who left to become the head coach of the expansion Ottawa Redblacks.

Stubler, 64, spent the last two seasons as the B.C. Lions defensive co-ordinator. Stubler has more than 25 years of CFL coaching experience with Hamilton, Edmonton, Toronto and B.C.

"I'm appreciative that the Stampeders and coach (John) Hufnagel have a little faith in me," said Stubler. "I'm really excited to come and work for the red and white." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Bryant bit by injury bug again

Kobe Bryant is expected to miss about six weeks with an injured left knee, dealing the second major injury setback of the year to the Los Angeles Lakers' superstar guard.

An MRI exam on Thursday revealed Bryant has a fracture in his lateral tibial plateau — the top of his shinbone near his knee.

Bryant made his season debut with the Lakers on Dec. 8 after nearly eight months away while recovering from a torn Achilles tendon. He apparently was hurt again Tuesday night in Memphis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kobe Bryant GETTY IMAGES

Daniel Alfredsson, centre, celebrates the first of his two goals against the Flames with Red Wings teammates Pavel Datsyuk, left, and Jonathan Ericsson on Thursday night in Detroit. DUANE BURLESON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flames remedy Wings' cold spell

NHL. Alfredsson's pair helps douse Calgary

Daniel Alfredsson scored two goals, including a power-play score at 1:03 of overtime, and the Detroit Red Wings earned a 3-2 win over the Calgary Flames on Thursday night.

The win snapped Detroit's six-game losing streak (0-4-2) and five-game home losing streak.

Alfredsson added an assist and Joakim Andersson also scored for Detroit. Pavel Datsyuk had three assists, Niklas Kronwall had two assists and Jonas Gustavsson made 20 saves.

Mikael Backlund and Mark Giordano scored for Calgary. Mike Cammalleri had two assists and Karri Ramo stopped 35 shots.

Alfredsson's winner came on a one-time slapshot from the inside edge of the left circle for his ninth goal. He also got his 700th assist earlier in the game.

Giordano's power-play goal tied it 2-2 at 15:53 of the second period. He beat Gustavsson with a shot from the high slot just after a two-man Flames advantage ended.

Andersson gave the Red Wings a 2-1 lead with 8:22 left in the second when Alfredsson's shot deflected in off his skate. It was Andersson's fifth goal.

Alfredsson opened the scoring just 26 seconds into the game when he put in a loose puck from the slot for his eighth goal.

Backlund tied it at 5:11 with his fifth goal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Thursday

3	2
Red Wings	Flames

Flames sign Athabasca boy

The Calgary Flames signed defenceman Keegan Kanzig to a three-year entry-level contract on Thursday.

- Kanzig, a native of Athabasca, was the Flames' third-round pick, 67th overall, in the 2013 NHL draft.
- In his third season with the WHL's Victoria Royals, the six-foot-six, 240-pound defenceman has two goals and two assists with 57 penalty minutes.

4 SPORTS

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Groenewoud set to come back in time for Sochi

Nagging knees.

Canadian skier goes under the knife after injury, ongoing pain

Canadian freestyle skier Roz Groenewoud underwent arthroscopic surgery this week to repair both of her knees, but is expected to recover in time for the Sochi Olympics.

The women's halfpipe star injured her left knee in training at last week's Dew Tour in Colorado. The 2011 world champion had the procedures done Tuesday and is expected to fully recover in four to six weeks.

"It wasn't my plan to have knee surgery this close to the Olympics," she said in a Canadian Freestyle Ski Association release. "But I can't wait to have two fully functional knees and ski without pain. No one said this road to Sochi would be easy but luckily I like challenges."

Roz Groenewoud
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Feb. 7-23 Sochi Games begin in just over seven weeks. Groenewoud is expected to be a podium contender in women's halfpipe skiing, a discipline that will make its Olympic debut next year.

Given that Groenewoud has had nagging issues with her right knee as well, her team made the decision to scope both joints at the same time after consultation with an orthopedic surgeon.

"The menisci problems of both knees put her at risk for more severe injuries," said Dr. Mark Heard. "I'm very optimistic about a speedy recovery." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	35	23	10	2	96	74	48
Tampa Bay	35	21	11	3	97	84	45
Montreal	36	21	12	3	91	76	45
Detroit	37	16	12	9	94	101	41
Toronto	37	18	16	3	101	106	39
Ottawa	36	14	16	6	101	118	34
Florida	35	13	17	5	81	110	31
Buffalo	35	9	23	3	63	100	21

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	37	26	10	1	117	80	53
Washington	34	18	13	3	107	102	39
Philadelphia	35	16	15	4	86	97	36
Carolina	34	14	13	7	79	94	35
NY Rangers	35	16	17	2	79	95	34
New Jersey	35	14	15	6	83	87	34
Columbus	35	14	17	4	91	100	32
NY Islanders	35	9	19	7	85	121	25

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	37	25	7	5	138	102	55
St. Louis	33	22	7	4	114	80	48
Colorado	33	22	10	1	96	78	45
Minnesota	37	20	12	5	86	88	45
Dallas	33	16	12	5	95	101	37
Nashville	35	16	16	3	80	99	35
Winnipeg	36	15	16	5	95	106	35

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	36	24	7	5	116	91	53
Los Angeles	35	23	8	4	97	68	50
San Jose	34	21	7	6	112	84	48
Vancouver	36	20	10	6	100	86	46
Phoenix	34	18	10	6	106	105	42
Calgary	35	13	16	6	88	111	32
Edmonton	36	11	22	3	93	123	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Thursday's results
Toronto 2 Phoenix 1 (SO)
Pittsburgh 5 Minnesota 2
Buffalo 4 Boston 2
Philadelphia 5 Columbus 4
Detroit 3 Calgary 2 (OT)
Tampa Bay 4 Nashville 2
Florida at Ottawa
Montreal at St. Louis
Vancouver at Dallas
Edmonton at Colorado
San Jose at Los Angeles

Wednesday's results
New Jersey 5 Ottawa 2
Pittsburgh 4 NY Rangers 3 (SO)

Friday's games

All Times Eastern
Anaheim at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Florida at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Saturday's games
Calgary at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Phoenix at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Boston, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Columbus, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's games
Minnesota at NY Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	19	30	49
Kane, Chi	20	26	46
Malkin, Pgh	9	32	41
Getzlaf, Ana	16	23	39
Ovechkin, Wash	28	10	38
Tavares, NYI	13	25	38
Perry, Ana	22	15	37
Backstrom, Wash	8	29	37
Steen, StL	22	14	36
Thornton, SJ	5	31	36
Kunitz, Pgh	18	17	35
Sharp, Chi	16	18	34
Marleau, SJ	15	19	34
Seguin, Dal	18	15	33
Toews, Chi	13	20	33
Kessel, Tor	17	15	32
Ryan, Ott	16	16	32

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	20	5	.800	—
d-Miami	19	6	.760	1
Atlanta	14	12	.538	6½
d-Boston	12	15	.444	9
Detroit	13	14	.481	8
Charlotte	12	14	.462	8½
Washington	11	13	.458	8½
Toronto	9	14	.391	10
Chicago	9	15	.375	10½
Cleveland	9	15	.375	10½
Brooklyn	9	16	.360	11
New York	8	17	.320	12
Orlando	8	18	.308	12½
Philadelphia	7	19	.269	13½
Milwaukee	5	20	.200	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	20	4	.833	—
Portland	22	5	.815	½
d-San Antonio	20	5	.800	½
d-L.A. Clippers	18	9	.667	3½
Houston	17	9	.654	4
Dallas	15	10	.600	5½
Phoenix	14	10	.583	6
Denver	14	10	.583	6
Golden State	14	12	.538	7
Minnesota	13	13	.500	8
L.A. Lakers	12	13	.480	8½
New Orleans	11	13	.458	9
Memphis	10	15	.400	10½
Sacramento	7	17	.292	13
Utah	7	21	.250	15

x - clinched playoff berth; **y** - division; **z** - conference.

Thursday's results
Chicago at Oklahoma City
San Antonio at Golden State

Friday's games
Brooklyn at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Utah at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Denver, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's games
Boston at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
A clash of opposing viewpoints is likely at work today. Because you need to get along with both sides, you must stay neutral. The best approach is to treat it all as a bit of a joke.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you find yourself up against a tough opponent today, you should back off and live to fight another day. The planets warn this is a battle you cannot win. The only sensible course is to withdraw, for now.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You don't have to be nice to people because you want to spare their feelings. If there is something that needs to be said, give it to them straight.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You would be wise to be on your guard over the next 24 hours as the planets warn someone you work or do business with is being more than a little deceitful. Don't judge others by what they say, judge them by what they do.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A moment's hesitation could cause you grief — at the very least you will kick yourself for not trusting your instincts. Don't listen to those who say you should be cautious. It may be good advice for them but it's not right for you.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Check facts today, especially those that a colleague says are OK and you don't have to worry about. If you give them the green light to proceed now, you may regret it later.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may be tempted to do something drastic today but the planets warn the results are as likely to be negative as positive. Why not just wait a while and let the current situation work itself out?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Be careful what you say. You could easily go over the top and let slip something that causes trouble. It might also cost you financially if others get the impression that you can't hold your tongue.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You appear to be having second thoughts about a plan that previously you thought was the key to success. Maybe you are right to hesitate but you are going to have to make a choice and stick with it.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It would appear that in your haste to get ahead, you have overlooked some small but important detail. Identify your mistake, correct it, move on.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A minor dispute could easily get out of hand today, especially if you insist that you are in the right and everyone else is wrong. You're not the only one who is stubborn, so a standoff is likely.

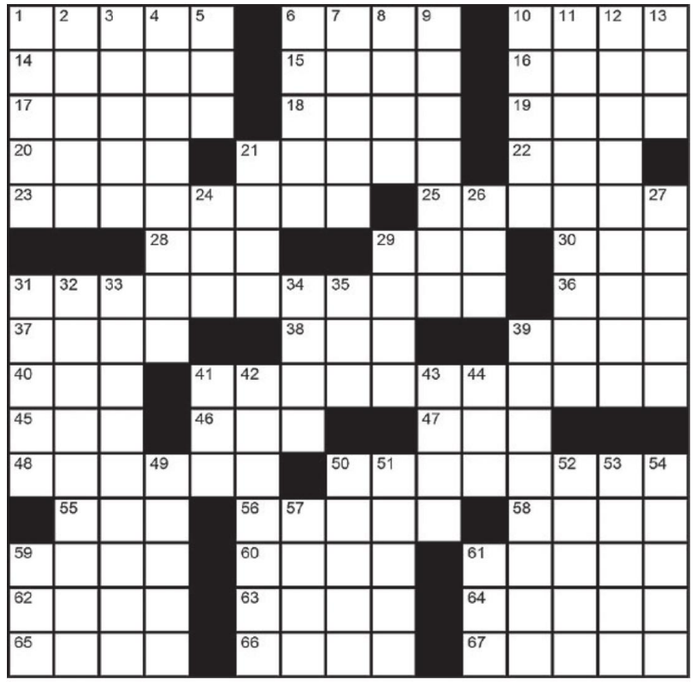
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
State your case today but don't get upset if others disagree and try to pick holes in your arguments. The world is a big enough place for all shades of opinion, so agree to disagree.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



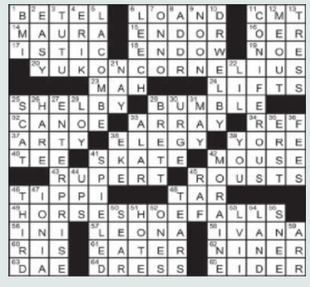
Across

1. December 21st, 1913: Invented by Arthur __ of the New York World, the greatest game at #12-Down
6. Season
10. Inscribe
14. Grease again
15. Woodwind
16. Q. "Is '__.' _ way to abbreviate any coming-in plane?" A. "Yes."
17. Nets
18. Volcanic flow
19. London lockup
20. Weapon: French
21. More kind
22. Mr. Asner's
23. Bag type
25. Legal scholar
28. Cousin __
29. Masc. opposite
30. Defunct airline
31. Canadian journalist on FOX News who was a MuchMusic host: 2 wds.
36. Particle
37. Ancient war god
38. Granny: German
39. Rope
40. Anderson Cooper's station
41. Will Ferrell's 'Anchorman': 2 wds.
45. Ms. Carpenter, for short
46. Alias, e.g.
47. Nice one?
48. Hockey's Conn __ Trophy
50. 1924... Simon & __: Publishers of the first book of #12-Downs (Trivia! Richard L. Simon is the father of the singer/songwriter at #9-Down)
55. Christmas __
56. Archaic anesthetic
58. 'Slithy' Lewis Carroll creature
59. Cuckoos
60. Young farm animal
61. Fine cottons
62. Going __ (Arguing): 2 wds.
63. Turkey, chicken, etc.
64. Fragrance
65. Unchanged: 2 wds.
66. Building extensions
67. "You're still the one _ ___ good night..." (Shania Twain line)

Down

1. __ havoc
2. Long for
3. Montreal-born actress Ms. Shearer (b.1902 - d.1983)
4. What a bowling ball could knock over: 2 wds.
5. Chicago trains
6. __ acid (Romaine lettuce stuff)
7. Surprised, taken __
8. Zero, in tennis
9. Bit of Carly Simon's "You're So Vain": "Then you flew your __ __ up to Nova Scotia..."
10. Gung-ho
11. Custom
12. Puzzle celebrating its 100th Anniversary!
13. Mr. Holbrook
21. International†org.
24. Gibraltar, e.g.
26. Hmms...
27. Actress Jessica
29. Herr's wife
31. Mr. Black's
32. Christmas Tree decorations
33. English king: name + Roman Numeral
34. __ fide
35. Diplomatic bldg.
39. Pool table prop: 2 wds.
41. Hurray!
42. American painter Georgia
43. Industrial region of Germany
44. Wildebeest
49. Quizzes
50. Wrap
51. Lockups
52. Moviedom's Marisa
53. Linda of "Dynasty"
54. Respites
57. Hammer
59. US driving org.
61. 23rd Greek letter

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		6		7	1	5	
					9			7
5						9		6
	2		5			8	3	
				1				
	9	4			8		1	
4		7						3
9			2					
	5	2	9		3		6	

Yesteday's Sudoku

7	3	8	2	4	5	9	6	1
4	5	6	8	9	1	7	3	2
2	1	9	3	7	6	4	8	5
9	8	3	1	5	4	6	2	7
5	2	4	6	3	7	1	9	8
1	6	7	9	2	8	5	4	3
8	7	5	4	6	2	3	1	9
3	4	1	7	8	9	2	5	6
6	9	2	5	1	3	8	7	4

Weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MAX: -11° MIN: -15°	MAX: -11° MIN: -14°	MAX: -1 MIN: -6°

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